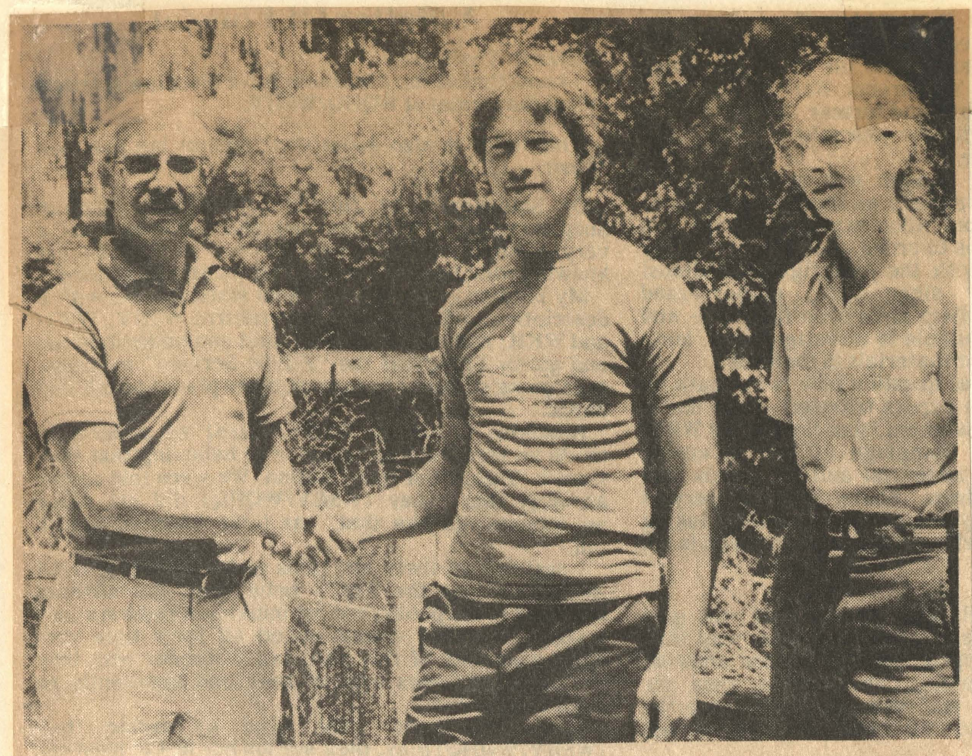
DEPARTMENT

OF

PUBLIC WORKS



ZOO WINNER. At center, Brian Eby, 14, of Snow Hill accepts congratulations from Friends of the Salisbury Zoo Vice-President Paul Kratzer and Zoo Education Commission member Ann Kuntze for winning a zoo tee-shirt in a recent contest there during animal awareness month. Debbie Ennis of Salisbury, not pictured, won the over-14 age group. Winners were selected at random from contestants who correctly answered a series of zoo-related questions. (Times Photo By Tom Leonard)

7/13/83

ADOPTION FUNDS. The Salisbury Zoo Commission has turned over $3,000 raised during the past year as part of the on-going "adopt-an-animal" campaign. Participating in a recent check presentation ceremony was, left to right, Salisbury Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr., zoo commission chairman Rollie Leimann, city treasure Roger Baskerville and zoo commission vice chairwoman Maureen McAllister. The money is used to offset the cost of feeding the zoo's animals.

7/12/83

Jobs For Kids Program Called Success

By RHONDA GRAHAM
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Committee members working on the Jobs for Kids program are so pleased with its success that the Salisbury City Council Monday night will discuss extending employment for city youth workers an extra two weeks.

"We've been very pleased with it," said Mayor W. Paul Martin. "And I've heard compliments from others (employers)."

The program is scheduled to end Aug. 6 for teen-agers employed by the city, but the council's approval could continue the program until Aug. 20. Teen-agers working for private industry can continue until Labor Day, said Jill Barbon, a spokeswoman for the mayor's committee.

Originally, the committee intended to hire 150 young people to work in both local government and private industry. But a combination of problems reduced the number of teen-agers placed in jobs to 85.

"It happened on both ends with the jobs and the kids," Barbon said. "Some employers who made commitments in the beginning withdrew them and some kids who wanted to work did not for various reasons."

Barbon said she has about five teen-agers she would still like to place, but says she is very satisfied with those that are working now. A letter from Department of Public Works Director Kenneth M. Haensler was delivered to the mayor last month, praising the work of 10 young people who were assigned to his department.

Haensler described the workers as hard workers. He also commended the committe for good screening.

Some employers have hinted they would be willing to hire their workers permanently and others have said they would reconsider hiring the same young people next summer.

Barbon admitted that some applicants had to be weeded out because of poor work attitudes. Reports of teen-agers scoffing at agricultural work were true, she said.

"There were some kids I would never place," she said. "Now there may be some who are not working out, but if there are, I am not aware of them."

Employers get a special tax break for hiring the teen-agers who must first meet federal government eligibility guidelines.

Barbon said the program's success this year has prompted committee members to think of ways to expand and improve the program next year.

"Next year we will have a proven track record," she said.

She said she would like to see the establishment of a summer youth employment program which would attempt to find work for those teen-agers whose parents' income exceed the government's "disadvantaged" requirement. This year, six different agencies tried to find employment for "disadvantaged" young people. Barbon said she thinks some attention should be paid to teen-agers of middle class households as well.

"I think we would look to try to address that group also," she said.

7/10/83

Renaissance Place Construction Restarted

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Construction on a 68 unit subsidized housing project off Parsons Road has been restarted, now that all but one of several legal challenges have been dismissed.

Victor H. Laws III, the local attorney for the Oxford Group, a Landover, Md. firm developing the $2.4 million project, said his client has obtained government backed financing and has posted a bond so construction can continue.

Last month, the city's inspection bureau also issued a building permit to the company.

"As far as we're concerned, we feel fairly certain the project can go on as planned without any more disruptions, although you never know," Laws said.

Construction on the project had been halted by legal maneuvering initiated in the last several months by Pemberton Manor Associates, the firm which owns and manages an apartment complex across the street from the proposed Renaissance Place.

Pemberton's attorney Henry M. Rutledge filed two separate appeals with Maryland's Court of Special Appeals in Annapolis challenging a city council decision to rezone the seven acres of property from industrial to residential use. Both have been dismissed, Laws and Rutledge said, quoting the court as saying the issues raised became moot when the city council passed a new zoning code earlier this year. Unless Rutledge's clients request that he seek one last appeal to the state's highest court, that phase of the challenge to block Oxford appears to be over.

Rutledge, however, has another suit pending in Wicomico County Circuit Court. His clients have asked him to challenge the city council's decision to enact a new zoning code labeling Oxford's land as suitable for multi-family residential use. Pemberton Manor officials also question in their suit the wisdom of the city's decision to give Oxford $101,160 to help the developer buy land on which it will build the townhouse development for low and moderate income families.

No court date has yet been announced when the case involving the new zoning ordinance will be heard. Laws said Rutledge would have to build a strong case to convince a judge to overturn the city council's action adopting a new zoning code.

Rutledge said his clients have not yet given up the fight; "We're disappointed by the recent events in Annapolis, but we're not entirely out of options yet," he said

Rutledge has said his clients are not fearful of competition from Renaissance Place. Instead, Pemberton Manor officials are said to be concerned about the impact 68 new families will have on the surrounding environment, including recreational facilities built especially for use by Pemberton apartment residents.

Oxford, on the other hand, has obtained $2.4 million from the state Community Development Administration in a 30-year loan to provide what is commonly known as "section 8" housing — a program for subsidizing the rent of tenants selected to live in the project. Long waiting lists for subsidized housing are common throughout Wicomico County.

The city government has backed the Oxford project for several years because it is seen as an effort to provide much needed housing and could help free up property for development near downtown that is currently the site of run-down rental housing.

Renaissance Place, which should be ready for occupancy by early 1984, will overlook Mitchell Pond. The city also has plans to resurface roads leading into the facility to improve access to the new housing project.

7/15/83

Machine Paves Way For Salisbury Renovation

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — If Hollywood made a movie out of what was going on in downtown Salisbury Wednesday, it would have to be titled "The Machine That Ate Main Street."

For most of the day, a noisy machine inched its way along a three-block stretch of East Main Street, gobbling up asphalt and depositing it in dump trucks.

Finishing touches are being put on a $140,000 renovation project in the area.

The public works department hired a firm from York, Pa., to bring in the milling machine, which scoops up and grinds chunks of asphalt that can be recycled for other paving jobs.

Steve Minkey, a construction superintendent with the public works department, said the machine will benefit taxpayers as it permits costly paving materials to be recycled. The city could have the old asphalt reheated and treated with some additives at a paving materials processing plant and then reapplied. Since no such facility exists in this area, the material will be used to stabilize soil under newly-paved roads.

Public works director Kenneth M. Haensler said the recycling of the ground-up asphalt will save his department tax money when he needs to buy road stabilization material for future projects. It cost the city about $6,000 to rent the machine and Haensler figures the reuse of the old asphalt will save several times that amount.

Sometime next week, another machine will put down a new layer of paving.

Minkey predicted most work along East Main Street to be finished by Aug. 1, about one month behind schedule. The completion date was delayed by rainy spring weather and when city officials decided they to change the style of street lights to a bronze-colored pole, replacing the existing silver-type aluminum structures.

All that needs to be done once repaving is completed are some minor concrete work on planters, installation of the street lighting and planting some juniper trees. A special gateway structure at the corner of Route 13 and East Main Street will probably be erected after the rest of the work is done.

7/14/83

ROAD RECYCLER. A milling machine scrapes asphalt from part of a three-block section of East Main Street in Salisbury to prepare it for a repaving job scheduled sometime next week. (Times Photo by Bill Robinson)

THE DAILY TIMES

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Worth The Wait

There is much confusion on East Main Street in Salisbury today. Machines are tearing up the road and traffic has been re-routed a few times in recent weeks.

The disorder soon will end and that section of Main Street will be transformed into an attractive shopping area.

The $140,000 project includes concrete tree planters, trees, new lighting fixtures and a special gateway at the Route 13 and East Main Street intersection.

If all goes well, work should be completed by Aug. 1.

The purpose is to continue onto East Main Street the pleasant plaza atmosphere now on West Main.

The renovation goes deeper than a face lift. Businessmen and city officials are attempting to make downtown Salisbury an attractive place to shop. In recent years, downtown has suffered because of competition from malls and regional shopping centers. As business fell off, some merchants closed and others relocated in the shopping centers.

This exodus was not confined to Salisbury. All across the country, downtowns were deteriorating; businesss after business closed or relocated. Empty buildings lined a once-viable shopping district.

Here in Salisbury, as in other towns, elected officials and merchants worked together to salvage the downtown business district. Once renovations began, merchants took heart and new stores opened, elected officials sought funds and businessmen decided to support additional taxation.

The Plaza today is much improved and new businessses are opening. Merchants along East Main Street believe their section of Salisbury can be enlivened. We think they are right.

We are looking forward to a revitalized downtown.

New Parking Lot Planned 7/12/83

SALISBURY — The city council Monday night aprroved the leasing of a lot at 504 W. Main Street for $100 a month to provide 40 to 45 parking spaces.

The rental move was made to replace a lot off West Main Street known as "number 9" that was leased by the city for many years. It has recently been purchased by Perdue Inc.

As part of the new rental agreement with Stanley Morris, an existing building on the lot will be demolished. Meters will be installed, charging motorists a rate of a nickel an hour.

Well Runs Dry; New One OK'd

SALISBURY — The city public works department has been authorized to spend $60,000 in emergency funding to replace a well in the City Park that has run dry.

Public works chief Kenneth M. Haensler said since the peak water useage season is during the summer and about 6 million gallons are being used daily, the loss of one well might create serious supply problems. He noted for example that fighting a fire might be difficult because of a failure to replace the dry well immediately.

Water Use Restrictions Continue In Salisbury

7/19/83

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — A ban on non-essential water use is still on for City of Salisbury water users.

Tom Plotts, assistant director of the city's public works department, said Monday some citizens might be confused or unaware of guidelines city residents are being asked to follow.

Here are the guidelines: if the last digit of your house number is even (0, 2, 4, 6 and 8) and the date on the calendar is also even, the city would like you to *refrain* from using water for gardens, lawns and washing cars. That means if the last digist of your house is odd, it's OK to use water for those activities.

On odd-numbered days on the calendar, residents with house numbers with an odd last digit (1, 3, 5, 7 and 9) are asked to *refrain* from using water. That means the even-number house residents can use water for non-essential reasons.

Water use will be permitted as normal on weekends.

The problem with the city water supply is traced to two reasons: a well in the City Park has failed and weather on the Delmarva Peninsula in recent weeks has been arid.

At the City Park water plant where official weather statistics are kept, records show it has rained only two days — July 5 and July 7 — for a total of .28 of an inch of water.

The public works department is currently searching for a contractor to dig a new well to replace the one in the park that gave out several weeks ago. The city council has given the public works department an emergency fund of $60,000 to replace the well. Plotts estimated Monday the new well will not be operating until Labor Day.

The water problem is further complicated by the fact a second well in the system has been identified by public works officials as producing at a "diminished capacity" and will likely be replaced next spring according to a pre-arranged schedule.

Normal summertime use when conditions are dry generally boosts the amount of water pumped through the system to between 5 and 6 million gallons daily.

A week ago today, the city pumped 6 million gallons.

When the word went out asking citizens to cut back use by house number and calendar day, the useage dropped off an average of 400,000 gallons last Thursday and Friday. Plotts said the south Salisbury water tank is capable of holding about 300,000 gallons.

Plotts said the city can easily handle pumping about 5½ million gallons daily if citizens follow the odd-even guidelines during the dry period.

The request by the public works department is considered an official emergency policy. Plotts said if the city should decide to prosecute those who ignore the request, they would ask the courts to try the cases as misdemeanor violations. A more likely step that could be taken against violator is the city could cut off water service.

City Announces Restrictions On Irrigation, Other Water Use

Advertiser — 7/20/83

To sprinkle or not to sprinkle, that is the question.

More correctly, when to sprinkle and when not to sprinkle, is the question.

The question is an important one to Salisbury residents now, since the city, due to problems with two wells and heavy water useage, has issued a partial ban on irrigation and other outdoor uses of water for all its customers.

The Public Works Department announced that irrigation and other outdoor uses will be banned on even number days at even number houses or locations; and likewise banned on odd number days at odd number houses or locations.

Water use will be permitted, as normal, on weekends.

The reasons for the partial ban imposed by the city are sudden failure of one of the wells in the City Park well Field, diminished capacity of another well there, and near record water demand due to prevailing hot and dry conditions, the department said.

The program was implemented last week, and even after the first day under the system an improvement in usage was noticeable. Public Works Director Kenneth M. Haensler said the number of gallons pumped the day before the partial ban was imposed was six million in the city, while on the first day under the restricted usage it dropped to 5.7-million.

He said they received a lot of calls with people asking for clarification on when they could or could not sprinkle their lawns, and that indicated to him that people are supporting the move.

As a measuring stick on its reserves, Haensler said, the city is keeping a watch on the College Avenue water tank. The day before the partial ban was effective, the water level in the tank dropped to 15 feet, meaning the tank was half empty, he noted. On the first day of the new system, the level dropped only to 17 feet, he pointed out, which was a better reserve.

"Customers are being conscientious," Haensler said, "and trying to help not only us but themselves."

News In Brief

8/4/83

Man Bitten By Jaguar At Zoo

SALISBURY — A Baltimore City man who was bitten by a jaguar at the Salisbury City Zoo last Friday will be charged with trespassing, city police said today.

Craig L. Kernan, 22, was bitten by "Sarah" when he attempted to pet the jaguar, after being warned by officials to stay away from the animal.

Animal keeper Victor Twilley said Kernan made an attempt to pet the jaguar earlier in the day by jumping a fence that surrounded her cage. Twilley said Kernan was warned that he was trespassing and asked to leave the area.

Twilley said later in the afternoon a couple visiting the zoo reported that a man had been bitten by the animal, but fled on foot.

Kernan was treated for bites on the hand at Peninsula General Hospital Medical Center and released. Sarah was placed in quarantine after the incident, Twilley said, adding that the animal suffered no stress.

"It was just a natural thing to do for her," Twilley said.

Salisbury To Replace Wells

7/26/83

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council voted Monday night to appropriate $60,000 in emergency surplus funds to replace two wells that ran dry two weeks ago, causing the city to limit non-essential water use by residents.

City executive secretary Pat Fennell said the odd-even day ban on water use in the city "is going very well".

The vote took the form of a resolution providing the council with the authority to make emergency appropriations anytime during a budget year to "protect the public health, safety and welfare."

At least one well is expected to be completed and operable by Labor Day.

Jobs For Kids Extended

SALISBURY — Ten young people working in the "Jobs for Kids" Program will have the opportunity to work two extra weeks. The city council voted unaimously Monday to approve the additional two weeks of work for the youngsters who are working with the Department of Public Works.

The program was scheduled to end August 6, but will now be extended to August 19.

"It will still give them a little extra time before school begins," Kenneth M. Haensler, director of public works, told the council. "I've talked with the kids and they are delighted to have a few more weeks to work."

Willow Street To Be Closed To Traffic

7/26/83

By RHONDA GRAHAM
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council voted Monday night to close a portion of Willow Street to public traffic at the request of the Perdue company.

A letter requesting the closing of the street which is bordered on both sides by the chicken processing plant was sent to the city last month.

"We respectfully request the City of Salisbury to close Willow Street from a point at the East end of the Perdue Plant, west to its junction from Cypress Street and West Main Street," Howard F. Yerges, director of engineering said in the letter.

An operator of a smaller business in the Willow Street area questioned the council's decision to close the street saying he felt it was an important street and was heavily used by people other than Perdue employees.

"What do you propose to do with the traffic that uses the street now," he asked.

A count of traffic using the street was taken last week and revealed an "hourly average of 72 vehicles per hour" use the street. An earlier count done in March of the two-way roadway had a higher figure of 86 vehicles per hour. The highest volume of traffic in the area was during shift changes at the plant.

Thomas D. Plotts of the city Public Works Department said the traffic counts were not high enough to cause major re-routing problems once the street is closed. A memo sent to the director of the department of public works from Plotts in March suggested the street closing would alleviate congestion at the intersection of Willow and Lake Street.

City Council President Norman Conway said a meeting with residents on July 18 and other research into the possible affects of the closing have satisfied him enough to vote in favor of the street closing. Conway added that an access to existng smaller business has been provided for in the plan so the area will not be totally cut off from people who frequent those businesses.

Citing increasing employment at the plant the company submitted the proposal to the council with an agreement to take place in the city's future plans for revitalization of the area.

The addition of a night shift at the plant of approximately 400 workers has caused traffic congestion, Perdue officials said. Yerges told the council the company intends to fence in part of the area of the blocked-off street and beef up its security system by requiring employee identification cards for entry into the plant.

The city reserved the right of utility easement in the area and required that a 9-foot private alley in the rear of the Salisbury Battery property not be included in the area to be annexed so as to grant access to sewerage.

Sewer Proposal Bared

8/9/83

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The City of Salisbury needs at least $4.5 million worth of improvements to its sewage treatment system, a consultant told the city council Monday night.

If the city wants to take advantage of substantial state and federal grants to subsidize the improvements, work must be started before October 1984, according to Tom Plotts, an engineer with the public works department.

Six major changes are called for in the analysis of the sewage treatment plant by Dr. Dave Sheridan, the expert who briefed the council Monday night.

Modifications or the addition of equipment to improve grease removal, phosphorus removal and chlorination application and removal are among the key proposals for upgrading the system.

Other adjustments to the system recommended by Sheridan are improvements to a procedure that would separate sludge from reusable water, removal of remaining moisture from the sludge and then treating it so it could be utilized as a humus-like material for application to non-edible vegetation.

The six-point proposal developed by Sheridan and his firm, Gannett-Fleming of Baltimore, would cost an estimated $4 million. If the city decides it will follow the consulting firm's recommendations before October 1984, the federal government will provide 75 percent funding and the state will put up another 12½ percent.

In addition to the sewer plant changes, Sheridan said several pumping stations need upgrading. That work carries a $500,000 price tag.

The city's share for all improvements would be $562,500 and would likely be funded by a capital improvements bond sale. The council made no commitment Monday to approve the plan, since it must still be reviewed by federal agencies which would decide whether the city deserved the financial assistance. The Environmental Protection Agency is the federal government agency responsible for making sure municipal sewage systems are meeting acceptable standards.

Plotts said the improvements would also cost the city an extra $200,000 in annual operating costs for additional personnel and materials such as chemicals. With repayments and interest on a bond, the cost to running an improved water and sewer system could easily reach $300,000.

Correction

A story in Friday's *Daily Times* incorrectly reported the expiration date for the storage of contaminated PCB capacitors in a site off the Paleo Channel by Delmarva Power & Light as being Monday. DP&L has until April of next year to continue to store the capacitors there.

sts Hearing

ermit Extension Asked

site on the Paleo Channel until the end of 1985. The permit expired Monday.

The utility asked that a public hearing be held on the request.

According to Robert F. Molzahn, the utility's manager of environmental affairs, the company investigated a number of locations throughout its Maryland service area and made detailed studies of six alternative sites for the storage.

"We made an honest and concerted effort to find a suitable site from among the choices available to us," Molzahn said. "But in the final analysis, none met the basic conditions of enabling us to secure the site from vandalism or theft, and of keeping close track of the PCB materials in the building."

Molzahn said a stepped-up program to replace all of the several hundred PCB capacitors remaining on its overhead distribution lines with non-PCB capacitors will be completed by the end of 1985, three years ahead of a replacement deadline mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency.

ALL OF the nation's utilities have a 1988 deadline to replace the capacitors.

PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) fluids contained in the capacitors are labeled as toxic substances by the EPA.

Molzahn said the accelerated program will substantially reduce the need to relocate the existing PCB storage facility to a site away from the Paleo Channel area.

The company was granted a three-year permit for the building in April 1981. At that time, and although the facility was built in accordance with strict EPA guidelines, Molzahn said the utility had said it would seek an alternate location for its PCB storage. The decision to seek an alternative site for the storage was a response to local opposition to the present site over the Paleo Channel, from which the city of Salisbury draws its water. The opposition came at a public hearing held by state environmental authorities before granting the original permit.

MOLZAHN said that by necessity all the sites looked at as alternate storage places were in outlying areas to avoid proximity to commercial and residential buildings. "This presented a serious problem of constant surveillance and security," said Molzahn, "such as that permitted by the present facility at the company's enclosed equipment yard on Naylor Mill Road.

"Even if we were to assume the risk of break-ins," he said, "the estimated cost of $100,000 for a replacement building would be a sheer waste considering that it would be used for only a relatively short time before it would no longer be needed."

Sharptown Fireman's Carnival Now thru Aug. 27th. (Closed Sundays)-adv.

Development Of Riverfront Eyed

8/19/83

SALISBURY — The development of the Wicomico River waterfront is the next phase of downtown revitalization, a group of leading Salisbury businessmen was told Thursday.

Projects such as a public marina, seafood restaurant, convention center and waterfront museum are among proposals by city officials, developers and volunteers with the city revitalization advisory organization.

The marina project appears well on its way toward reality, according to R/UDAT project coordinator Philip C. "Pete" Cooper, the speaker at the monthly Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting that attracted a crowd of 125 people.

The state of Maryland recently approved the marina project as eligible for $189,000 in Program Open Space funds, which should help the city offset the costs of property acquisition and some development.

Cooper said land acquisition negotiations are nearly complete and predicted the marina, just west of the West Main Street bridge, would be under construction by late next summer.

Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr. has targeted the marina as a key downtown project with the hope it will stimulate other development along the West Main Street corridor.

Near the proposed marina, Cooper said a Chincoteague seafood firm is interested in a waterfront property to expand its operation. A seafood market and raw bar are among the ideas being considered as is a restaurant.

"We're looking for things that will attract people and that are unusual — something you can't find any place else," Cooper said.

R/UDAT hopes to convince the Ward Foundation to consider a relocation downtown. The spot being mentioned most often is the old G & K warehouse building, now the site of weekend flea markets.

Across the river from the old warehouse, R/UDAT is proposing a hotel-conference center on the site of the old Victor Lynn steamboat firm.

Cooper also said the travel agency affiliate of Chesapeake Shipbuilding has expressed an interest in dock space near such a conference center. He said the ship firm would consider starting up a tour in Salisbury.

"I think you'll see the harbor starting to become a key to the future energies of redevelopment in downtown Salisbury," Cooper said.

Facade Fix-up Limit Boosted

8/83

SALISBURY — The city council Monday night agreed to raise the dollar limit on a building facade fix-up program that allows property owners in the downtown to acquire federal aid for renovation projects.

The council voted to give K. King Burnett and the organization he represents a total of $19,415.45 for fixing up the "old synagogue building" on the corner of West Main and West Market streets. The previous grant limit had been $15,000.

The council was told the federal government, which provided the money initially, had OK'd the increase. The money has been handed out in a program that stipulates the grant recepient must match the amount requested.

Loan Rules Changed By Council

SALISBURY — A federally-subsidized revolving loan program which the City of Salisbury is using to stimulate commercial redevelopment in the downtown central business district has been amended by the city council.

The council Monday night voted to allow businesses already in the area to apply for aid in relocating within the district. Businesses must first meet a series of qualification established by the federal government and the city before any money is loaned.

Student Worker Designs Model

2/14/83

By RHONDA GRAHAM
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Since its inception two months ago, the mayor's "Summer Jobs for Kids" program has had both good and bad spin-offs. The bad spins-off fortunately came at the beginning, with a few young people refusing to do farm work. The good spin-offs are still occurring with letters from satisfied employers as evidence.

Another good spin-off of the summer jobs program can be found in the Department of Public Works. This department was assigned 10 young people. One in particular, Gerome Hochmuth, has exceled in a special way.

Hochmuth, has designed a model street intersection in the six weeks he's been with the department. According to Thomas Plotts, deputy director for the department of public works, Hochmuth's project is one the department had always wanted to design but lack of manpower and other priority projects prevented the idea from coming to fruition.

"WE WANT to use it as an educational display aid," Plotts said. He said the intersection shows how the Public Works Department operates.

"I'd say about 99 percent of this project he's responsible for. We have tried to guide him through, but many of the things he made up along the way," Plotts said.

MODEL INTERSECTION. Gerome Hochmuth, 17, refines a small slat of wood to go into a model street intersection project he is designing for use by the city's Public Works Department. Hochmuth's project received high praise last week from his boss, Tom Plotts, deputy director of the department of public works. (Times Photo by Rhonda Graham)

The intersection, which sits inside a wooden case that Hochmuth also made, includes trash cans, telephone poles, fire hydrants and manholes — all in miniature form.

"The intersection has been excavated to show how pipes and utility lines are laid underground," the 17-year-old said about his design.

Employers participating in the summer jobs program are given tax breaks for hiring young people whose parent's income meet federal government guidelines.

Hochmuth's parents' income was higher than the government guidelines according to Jill Barbon, coordinator of the program.

BUT SHE said Hochmuth's persistency to get a summer job and his apparent ability to fill a position that she and Plotts thought was a long shot convinced the city to hire the teen-ager and forego the tax advantage.

"We really did not have a lot of hope of finding someone who would be this technical minded," Barbon said.

"He's an excellent worker and good planner," Plotts said. "We are used to making a request like this and getting no answer, we are really pleased."

"I've built other models at home," Hochmuth said, noting however that he did have to do some research before designing the intersection.

Hochmuth will be a senior at Parkside High School in September and says he has not decided what college he wants to go to after graduation. He says he definitely has an interest in computers and electronics.

He has three sisters and one brother and is the middle child of Joseph and Joan Hochmuth who live on Glen Avenue.

Restroom Facilities At Zoo Will Be Expanded

8/83

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Expanded restroom facilities are planned at the City Park Zoo here next summer.

The city has received an $11,250 grant from the state of Maryland to partially offset the cost of construction.

Tom Plotts, assistant director of the city's public works department, said his agency is currenty working on proposed designs for the new facility, which is estimated to cost $24,600. No construction schedule has been established, although Plotts said his department "would like to see it ready for use by next summer."

The money will be provided through the state-funded "Program Open Space," which provides grants for recreational-oriented projects developed by cities and counties in Maryland. The money is generated by transfer taxes collected from property sales throughout the state.

During the last several years, the zoo staff has urged officials from the city and Wicomico County to consider providing money for new restrooms. On weekends during warm weather months, long lines can be seen around the zoo administrative offices where two small restrooms are provided for visitors.

Plotts said city planners envision the new facility being constructed between the existing main office building and the zoo's east gate. Once design plans are finished, contractors will be invited to compete for the contract to do the work.

A restroom facility off Beaver Dam Drive near the zoo's west entrance has been closed for several years because it has been the target of vandalism. The new restroom will be under the zoo staff's direct supervision.

"Right now, it's a matter of priorities. With the zoo's busy season winding down, we'll probably begin finalizing the plans over the winter so we'll be ready next summer," Plotts said.

The city will provide the balance of the money needed to build the facility. To get Program Open Space money, the city has to get the endorsement of the county's recreation commission on an application.

Sewer Proposal Bared

8/9/83

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The City of Salisbury needs at least $4.5 million worth of improvements to its sewage treatment system, a consultant told the city council Monday night.

If the city wants to take advantage of substantial state and federal grants to subsidize the improvements, work must be started before October 1984, according to Tom Plotts, an engineer with the public works department.

Six major changes are called for in the analysis of the sewage treatment plant by Dr. Dave Sheridan, the expert who briefed the council Monday night.

Modifications or the addition of equipment to improve grease removal, phosphorus removal and chlorination application and removal are among the key proposals for upgrading the system.

Other adjustments to the system recommended by Sheridan are improvements to a procedure that would separate sludge from reusable water, removal of remaining moisture from the sludge and then treating it so it could be utilized as a humus-like material for application to non-edible vegetation.

The six-point proposal developed by Sheridan and his firm, Gannett-Fleming of Baltimore, would cost an estimated $4 million. If the city decides it will follow the consulting firm's recommendations before October 1984, the federal government will provide 75 percent funding and the state will put up another 12½ percent.

In addition to the sewer plant changes, Sheridan said several pumping stations need upgrading. That work carries a $500,000 price tag.

The city's share for all improvements would be $562,500 and would likely be funded by a capital improvements bond sale. The council made no commitment Monday to approve the plan, since it must still be reviewed by federal agencies which would decide whether the city deserved the financial assistance. The Environmental Protection Agency is the federal government agency responsible for making sure municipal sewage systems are meeting acceptable standards.

Plotts said the improvements would also cost the city an extra $200,000 in annual operating costs for additional personnel and materials such as chemicals. With repayments and interest on a bond, the cost to running an improved water and sewer system could easily reach $300,000.

...&L Requests Hearing

PCB Permit Extension Asked

SALISBURY — The Maryland Office of Environmental Programs has been asked by Delmarva Power & Light Co. to extend the utility's permit to store contaminated PCB capacitors in a site off the Paleo Channel until the end of 1985. The permit expired Monday.

The utility asked that a public hearing be held on the request.

According to Robert F. Molzahn, the utility's manager of environmental affairs, the company investigated a number of locations throughout its Maryland service area and made detailed studies of six alternative sites for the storage.

"We made an honest and concerted effort to find a suitable site from among the choices available to us," Molzahn said. "But in the final analysis, none met the basic conditions of enabling us to secure the site from vandalism or theft, and of keeping close track of the PCB materials in the building."

Molzahn said a stepped-up program to replace all of the several hundred PCB capacitors remaining on its overhead distribution lines with non-PCB capacitors will be completed by the end of 1985, three years ahead of a replacement deadline mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency.

ALL OF the nation's utilities have a 1988 deadline to replace the capacitors.

PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) fluids contained in the capacitors are labeled as toxic substances by the EPA.

Molzahn said the accelerated program will substantially reduce the need to relocate the existing PCB storage facility to a site away from the Paleo Channel area.

The company was granted a three-year permit for the building in April 1981. At that time, and although the facility was built in accordance with strict EPA guidelines, Molzahn said the utility had said it would seek an alternate location for its PCB storage. The decision to seek an alternative site for the storage was a response to local opposition to the present site over the Paleo Channel, from which the city of Salisbury draws its water. The opposition came at a public hearing held by state environmental authorities before granting the original permit.

MOLZAHN said that by necessity all the sites looked at as alternate storage places were in outlying areas to avoid proximity to commercial and residential buildings. "This presented a serious problem of constant surveillance and security," said Molzahn, "such as that permitted by the present facility at the company's enclosed equipment yard on Naylor Mill Road.

"Even if we were to assume the risk of break-ins," he said, "the estimated cost of $100,000 for a replacement building would be a sheer waste considering that it would be used for only a relatively short time before it would no longer be needed."

Sharptown Fireman's Carnival
Now thru Aug. 27th. (Closed Sundays)-adv.

Development Of Riverfront Eyed

8/19/83

SALISBURY — The development of the Wicomico River waterfront is the next phase of downtown revitalization, a group of leading Salisbury businessmen was told Thursday.

Projects such as a public marina, seafood restaurant, convention center and waterfront museum are among proposals by city officials, developers and volunteers with the city revitalization advisory organization.

The marina project appears well on its way toward reality, according to R/UDAT project coordinator Philip C. "Pete" Cooper, the speaker at the monthly Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting that attracted a crowd of 125 people.

The state of Maryland recently approved the marina project as eligible for $189,000 in Program Open Space funds, which should help the city offset the costs of property acquisition and some development.

Cooper said land acquisition negotiations are nearly complete and predicted the marina, just west of the West Main Street bridge, would be under construction by late next summer.

Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr. has targeted the marina as a key downtown project with the hope it will stimulate other development along the West Main Street corridor.

Near the proposed marina, Cooper said a Chincoteague seafood firm is interested in a waterfront property to expand its operation. A seafood market and raw bar are among the ideas being considered as is a restaurant.

"We're looking for things that will attract people and that are unusual — something you can't find any place else," Cooper said.

R/UDAT hopes to convince the Ward Foundation to consider a relocation downtown. The spot being mentioned most often is the old G & K warehouse building, now the site of weekend flea markets.

Across the river from the old warehouse, R/UDAT is proposing a hotel-conference center on the site of the old Victor Lynn steamboat firm.

Cooper also said the travel agency affiliate of Chesapeake Shipbuilding has expressed an interest in dock space near such a conference center. He said the ship firm would consider starting up a tour in Salisbury.

"I think you'll see the harbor starting to become a key to the future energies of redevelopment in downtown Salisbury," Cooper said.

Facade Fix-up Limit Boosted

8/83

SALISBURY — The city council Monday night agreed to raise the dollar limit on a building facade fix-up program that allows property owners in the downtown to acquire federal aid for renovation projects.

The council voted to give K. King Burnett and the organization he represents a total of $19,415.45 for fixing up the "old synagogue building" on the corner of West Main and West Market streets. The previous grant limit had been $15,000.

The council was told the federal government, which provided the money initially, had OK'd the increase. The money has been handed out in a program that stipulates the grant recepient must match the amount requested.

Loan Rules Changed By Council

SALISBURY — A federally-subsidized revolving loan program which the City of Salisbury is using to stimulate commercial redevelopment in the downtown central business district has been amended by the city council.

The council Monday night voted to allow businesses already in the area to apply for aid in relocating within the district. Businesses must first meet a series of qualification established by the federal government and the city before any money is loaned.

Student Worker Designs Model

2/14/83

By RHONDA GRAHAM
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Since its inception two months ago, the mayor's "Summer Jobs for Kids" program has had both good and bad spin-offs. The bad spins-off fortunately came at the beginning, with a few young people refusing to do farm work. The good spin-offs are still occuring with letters from satisfied employers as evidence.

Another good spin-off of the summer jobs program can be found in the Department of Public Works. This department was assigned 10 young people. One in particular, Gerome Hochmuth, has exceled in a special way.

Hochmuth, has designed a model street intersection in the six weeks he's been with the department. According to Thomas Plotts, deputy director for the department of public works, Hochmuth's project is one the department had always wanted to design but lack of manpower and other priority projects prevented the idea from coming to fruition.

"WE WANT to use it as an educational display aid," Plotts said. He said the intersection shows how the Public Works Department operates.

"I'd say about 99 percent of this project he's responsible for. We have tried to guide him through, but many of the things he made up along the way," Plotts said.

MODEL INTERSECTION. Gerome Hochmuth, 17, refines a small slat of wood to go into a model street intersection project he is designing for use by the city's Public Works Department. Hochmuth's project received high praise last week from his boss, Tom Plotts, deputy director of the department of public works. (Times Photo by Rhonda Graham)

The intersection, which sits inside a wooden case that Hochmuth also made, includes trash cans, telephone poles, fire hydrants and manholes — all in miniature form.

"The intersection has been excavated to show how pipes and utility lines are laid underground," the 17-year-old said about his design.

Employers participating in the summer jobs program are given tax breaks for hiring young people whose parent's income meet federal government guidelines.

Hochmuth's parents' income was higher than the government guidelines according to Jill Barbon, coordinator of the program.

BUT SHE said Hochmuth's persistency to get a summer job and his apparent ability to fill a position that she and Plotts thought was a long shot convinced the city to hire the teen-ager and forego the tax advantage.

"We really did not have a lot of hope of finding someone who would be this technical minded," Barbon said.

"He's an excellent worker and good planner," Plotts said. "We are used to making a request like this and getting no answer, we are really pleased."

"I've built other models at home," Hochmuth said, noting however that he did have to do some research before designing the intersection.

Hochmuth will be a senior at Parkside High School in September and says he has not decided what college he wants to go to after graduation. He says he definitely has an interest in computers and electronics.

He has three sisters and one brother and is the middle child of Joseph and Joan Hochmuth who live on Glen Avenue.

Restroom Facilities At Zoo Will Be Expanded

8/83

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Expanded restroom facilities are planned at the City Park Zoo here next summer.

The city has received an $11,250 grant from the state of Maryland to partially offset the cost of construction.

Tom Plotts, assistant director of the city's public works department, said his agency is currenty working on proposed designs for the new facility, which is estimated to cost $24,600. No construction schedule has been established, although Plotts said his department "would like to see it ready for use by next summer."

The money will be provided through the state-funded "Program Open Space," which provides grants for recreational-oriented projects developed by cities and counties in Maryland. The money is generated by transfer taxes collected from property sales throughout the state.

During the last several years, the zoo staff has urged officials from the city and Wicomico County to consider providing money for new restrooms. On weekends during warm weather months, long lines can be seen around the zoo administrative offices where two small restrooms are provided for visitors.

Plotts said city planners envision the new facility being constructed between the existing main office building and the zoo's east gate. Once design plans are finished, contractors will be invited to compete for the contract to do the work.

A restroom facility off Beaver Dam Drive near the zoo's west entrance has been closed for several years because it has been the target of vandalism. The new restroom will be under the zoo staff's direct supervision.

"Right now, it's a matter of priorities. With the zoo's busy season winding down, we'll probably begin finalizing the plans over the winter so we'll be ready next summer," Plotts said.

The city will provide the balance of the money needed to build the facility. To get Program Open Space money, the city has to get the endorsement of the county's recreation commission on an application.

FOR THE KIDS. Salisbury Mayor W. Paul Martin serves Lisa Deshields baked beans during a picnic this week, sponsored by the mayor and city council to thank 125 area youngster who took part in the "Mayor's Regional Summer Youth Jobs Program." Other participants included, from left, Todd Mattox, Bruce Pusey and Jerry Hochmuth. The picnic was held in the Salisbury City Park. (Times Photo)

9/9/83

City Jobs Program Praised

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The 1983 "Jobs for Kids" summer program was so successful organizers are encouraging the City of Salisbury to support it again next year.

Program coordinator Jill E. Barbon Monday night gave city council members a written as well as verbal report of accomplishments and recommendations.

Barbon said 93 economically disadvantaged youngsters started with the program at the beginning of the summer and only seven dropped out before it ended. Forty-eight employers participated, including several local governments.

Barbon said some of the youngsters who participated have been asked to remain on the payroll of participating firms as part-time employees. Others have been urged to return next summer, she said.

The program was started from an idea suggested by Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr. It was designed after those in larger cities such as Baltimore. Participating businesses who hired teen-agers through the program could earn tax credits of up to 85 percent of the salary paid to a qualified worker.

Barbon said the success of this year's program will probably mean that next summer employers would be anxious to hire youngsters because of the productivity this year's group achieved and not strictly for tax breaks.

Advisory committee chairman William B. Rictor called the experimental program one of the best community projects organized locally in many years.

Rictor said the committee he chaired has voted to urge the city and community to back a 1984 version.

Martin said feedback from the business community he has received has been positive and indicated he would support the continuation of such a program again next year.

Barbon, who was paid $10,000 to organize and administer the program over an eight-month period, said she believes younsters who are not from economically disadvantaged families ought to be allowed to participate next year.

She said adults were encouraged with the program's initial results and want to see it help all teen-agers willing to work for some extra spending money during the summer months.

Council President Norman H. Conway said the council was satisfied the program had achieved its goal and would consider Barbon's recommendations.

A SAFE CROSSING. Members of a group to prevent injury to school children crossing the insection at Mulberry and Spring Streets in Salisbury hold a sign warning motorists of a new crossway as Salisbury city workers Joseph Chandler, left and Olin Tarr paint lines on the crossover section. Members of the group which worked with the National Child Saftey Council and local government officials to establish the crosswalk at Prince Street Elementary school include, from left, Lt. Richard Shores of the Salisbury Police Dept.; school principal Joana Donovan and Samuel Walker, supervisor of health services for the Wicomico County school system. Motorists must stop for pedestrians using the crosswalk. (Times Photo)

9/8/83

Camden Changes To Get Review

9/14

SALISBURY — Residents of the Camden Avenue area who live near Newton Street have asked the city council to consider changes in parking and traffic policies in the neighborhood.

The council took no action Monday night on the request. Instead, Councilman Samuel W. Seidel promised Mrs. Joe Price, a spokeswoman for the neighborhood, that council members would conduct a walking tour of the area in the near future.

Among the issues Price and others are asking the council to look at include parking and truck bans, improvements in street cleaning service, crosswalks for children and installation of signs to warn motorists about children at play.

Marina Funding Taking Shape

9/14

SALISBURY — The City of Salisbury is seeking funding for the proposed marina off West Main Street.

The city council Monday night approved two proposals for state grants that, if granted, would secure $462,000 for developing the facility. The city already has received a commitment from the state for $189,000 to use for land acquisition.

To get some of the state grant money, the council was told it would have to pledge $287,000 in local funds. The General Assembly will be asked to support the funding requests when the 1984 session opens in January.

Baker Street Signs To Change

SALISBURY — A parking problem on Baker Street near one of the city's shirt manufacturing plants will be solved with some sign changes.

The city council approved a joint proposal by the public works and police departments to ban parking along the south side of the street during a 45-minute period each afternoon so there is room for cars waiting to pick up workers at the Gant Shirt factory.

Street Closing Gets Support

SALISBURY — The State Highway Administration has the City of Salisbury's support to close a small strip of West Main Street near Route 50.

The council voted Monday night to approve the closing of the street permanently, since traffic surveys show it is little used as an off-ramp for Route 50 or access to Quantico Road.

If the SHA finds the closing causes problems, the street could be reopened. The closing is part of a redesign of the intersection, the council was told by city engineers.

School Board Hires Attorney

SEAFORD — The Seaford School Board has approved the hiring of a Wilmington attorney to handle teacher contract negotiations.

Board members hired Perry F. Goldlust at $80-an-hour to handle the negotiations because of the changes in collective bargaining laws, according to Superintendent Russell Knorr.

Goldlust has previously handled labor negotiations with the Woodbridge, Brandywine and Colonial school districts.

Worker's Performance Noted

SALISBURY — A city employees has been singled out for excellence on the job as water plant supervisor here.

George Thomas was introduced to the city council here Monday night as the most recent recipient of the "Water Plant Operator of the Year" by the regional chapter of the American Water Works Association.

Thomas was presented by his chief supervisor, public works director Kenneth M. Haensler.

Historical Sign Gets New Home

SALISBURY — The lawn in front of the Wicomico County courthouse will be getting another addition to its collection of memorabilia saluting the history of the community.

The county council Tuesday approved a request from William Lennon Jr. of the Sons of Confederate Veterans organization to install a marker on the courthouse lawn. The sign commemorates the contributions of John Henry Winder, a Civil War general.

Lennon said the marker has been knocked over during several traffic accidents along Route 13 near the Messick Ice Plant over the years and his group would like to see it in a safe location.

A dedication ceremony is scheduled for Sunday at 2 p.m. in front of the courthouse.

David Grier will deliver an address acknowledging the accomplishments of Winder during the Sunday ceremony.

9/21/83

'Breath Of Fresh Air'

9/26/83

New Director Of Salisbury Zoo Likes Facility And Community

Peter Crowcroft

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Peter Crowcroft, the new director of the city zoo here, calls the facility the "proverbial breath of fresh air. I liked the vibrations the minute I set foot in it."

He is even more enthused about his new home.

Salisbury, Crowcroft said, "is what an oasis should be in a crazy life like ours."

"You just don't find this fine a facility in a community which has the tax base it does," he said. "What this city has done to provide its citizens with a first-rate zoo is marvelous."

Crowcroft came here from Toronto, Canada, where he was general director of the city zoo. At age 60, he had tired of the size of the 700-acre facility, its million-dollar budget and the problems that accompany the responsiblity of running a major city zoo.

THE AUTHOR of five books on zoos, including one for children, Crowcroft found the Salisbury job through a recommendation by a former city zoo director.

"It was Steve Graham who pointed me here," said Crowcroft, a native of Australia who also worked in the Chicago area. "I told him I was ready to return. I'm convinced the States is the country.

"I'm coming to stay, and I don't know where," he recalled saying to Graham.

Graham told him Salisbury is the ideal spot to slow down the pace of life. "More important, he said my family would like it. And they did. Immediately," Crowcroft said.

Crowcroft said the timing of his decision to move to Salisbury was a coincidence with the opening in the director's post here. He was really looking for an out-of-the-way American community where he could do more writing and set up a zoo consulting business.

But now, he said, "This little zoo is going to keep me so busy, I won't have time to write. I'm looking foward to the challenge."

Crowcroft plans to move slowly with the decision-making that goes along with his $22,900-a-year post. One of the directives he received from Mayor W. Paul Martin when hired was to maintain the zoo's small scale.

"I don't want it bigger," Crowcroft said he told Martin. "I want it better."

CROWCROFT said there will be no departure from style or basic layout. "The atmosphere is the key to this zoo's popularity," he said.

He has compared notes with staff members and found many of their objectives are similar to a list of ideas he has developed. "They have some really interesting projects they want to do, and we're going to be looking at all of them," he said.

Crowcroft believes a zoo's top priority should be as an instrument of conservation and for protecting endangered species. He would like to see the zoo assume a greater role in those areas as well as to encourage educators to use the facility as a teaching tool.

He also believes in the philosophy that zoo visitors should be in closer contact with animals.

The new director has had experience with a program where a zookeeper becomes a demonstrator. Someday, a young guanaco on a leash or a bald eagle perched on the gloved arm of a zookeeper might be a familiar sight at the zoo. Right now, the staff is small and has little time for such additional duties.

OVER THE last decade, the zoo has concentrated on exhibiting animials primarily from North and South America. Crowcroft wants to hear from citizens on exhibits they would like to see.

Building stronger volunteer support and organizing fund-raisers are seen by Crowcroft as a key to his program.

"If the community wants a better zoo, it has to pay for it. It works in successful zoos and it can work here."

Crowcroft, who plans to seek American citizenship in 30 months, said he has a new found enthusiasm for his profession.

"When I wake up in the morning, I have this funny feeling — I'm looking forward to going to work," he said. "I hope it stays with me a long time."

Profile

Advertiser
9/21/83

Peter Crowcroft, Director Of the Salisbury Zoo

BY MAUREEN McNEILL

As former director of the Chicago Zoological Park and other large zoos in Australia and Canada, what are Peter Crowcroft's plans for the Salisbury Zoo ? "The first thing I am going to do is listen," he answers. The new director of the Salisbury Zoo explains, "The Zoo Commission, the Friends of the Zoo, the staff and the city have been working on this project for a long time; and I want to first get their ideas of what will make the zoo better."

Crowcroft's plans for the immediate future include taking stock not only of the zoo, but of the community's resources and needs. He would like to continue and possibly expand the zoo's contact with the school system and with the community.

Peter Crowcroft came to Salisbury when a colleague, former Salisbury Zoo director Steve Graham, told him that the city was looking for a new director for the zoo. Crowcroft drove into Salisbury and happened to turn onto North Division Street. As he looked around the Newtowne Historic District he was charmed by the Victorian houses. He knew that his family would be happy here. "I saw one house in particular," he recalls, "and I said to myself, 'That's the house Liz (Mrs. Crowcroft) wants."

Crowcroft then met with city authorities and was interviewed as a candidate for zoo director. Before the search committee had had a chance to make its decision, however, Crowcroft and his family were moving into a house on Elizabeth Street. His son has already started school here.

The experience of running a small zoo is something CrowCroft is looking forward to. According to him, the problem with the really big zoos is that the general director is not allowed to touch a broom. There are usually at least three levels of management personnel between the director and the people who do the actual work of maintaining a zoo.

"You see, with a zoo the size of this one, it is possible to do the one thing the traditional zoo director must do each morning: take a walk through the zoo and see firsthand how it's doing."

Peter Crowcroft

The size of a zoo itself can also facilitate a personal style of management. "You see, with a zoo the size of this one, it is possible to do the thing the traditional zoo director must do each morning: take a walk through the zoo and see firsthand how it's doing," Crowcroft explains. "If the director of the National Zoo in Washington were to attempt that, he'd never get to his office." Such zoos are so large that their directors must depend on others to keep them informed. Of course it is not impossible to manage a large zoo well, Peter Crowcroft has done that before. But he is looking forward to assuming the role of the traditional zoo director.

"The staff here is very good," he finds. "And this is essential. I think we'll be able to accomplish alot."

Certainly, in his studies and experiences, Peter Crowcroft has acquired skills and made contacts that will benefit the Salisbury Zoo in the coming years. More important than that is the wisdom he brings to the job. An exerpt from his book **The Zoo** will illustrate this:

"I am sure that every new zoo director compiles a list of the animals he considers ideal, and makes plans to acquire them. When I went to the Chicago Zoological Park (Brookfield Zoo) in 1968, I made my ideal list. Only after I had completed it did I come across the list the zoo's first director, Edward Bean, had published when I was in diapers. There were few differences." The irony of this was not lost on Crowcroft, who continues, "Unless dealing with a brand-new zoo, therefore, the director is dealing with an inheritance. It is not merely a lot of animals resulting from past policy or lack of it, it is a legacy of ingrained practices and attitudes."

It may be this realization that sets Crowcroft apart. He is quick to recognize a zoo's potential and has many ideas of his own as to how best to tap that potential. He is equally quick, however, to recognize that he is the newcomer and that he can learn from the people who have been operating this zoo for several years.

Crowcroft had been the director of a Natural History Museum in Australia when he went to work at his first zoo in Brookfield, Illinois. He is much more strongly attracted to zoos and to the care and interest that their living specimens inspire. The books he has written betray a fondness for and an abiding concern for the career that has chosen him.

One afternoon at the Brookfield Zoo, as Crowcroft and his staff were sorting through the zoo's files and memorabilia he came across a shovel. It was the one used in the groundbreaking ceremonies when the zoo was first begun. The date inscribed on the shovel, that of the groundbreaking, was the same as that of Crowcroft's own birth. He was startled for a moment at the coincidence. Now he chuckles at the suggestion that fate had brought him there. Whether or not Peter Crowcroft's career in zoological parks was predestined by the gods may never be determined. The fact that he is ideally suited for directing the Salisbury Zoo is apparent regardless.

Salisbury Zoo Director W. Peter Crowcroft, seen here in a tete-a-tete with one of the zoo's largest inhabitants, a bison. (News and Advertiser photo)

New City Zoo Director Named

SALISBURY — A city public works department spokesman announced Wednesday that a new City Park zoo director has been chosen.

W. Peter Crowcroft will start his new job here Sept. 19. Crowcroft is a native Australian who, according to city officials, has had "a long-standing desire to become a U.S. citizen."

Crowcroft has held zoo management positions in Australia, Canada, England and the United States. He comes to Salisbury from Toronto, where he was general director of the zoo in that city.

Crowcroft succeeds former director George Speidel, who resigned for personal reasons earlier this year.

Called Key To Revitalization

9/26/83

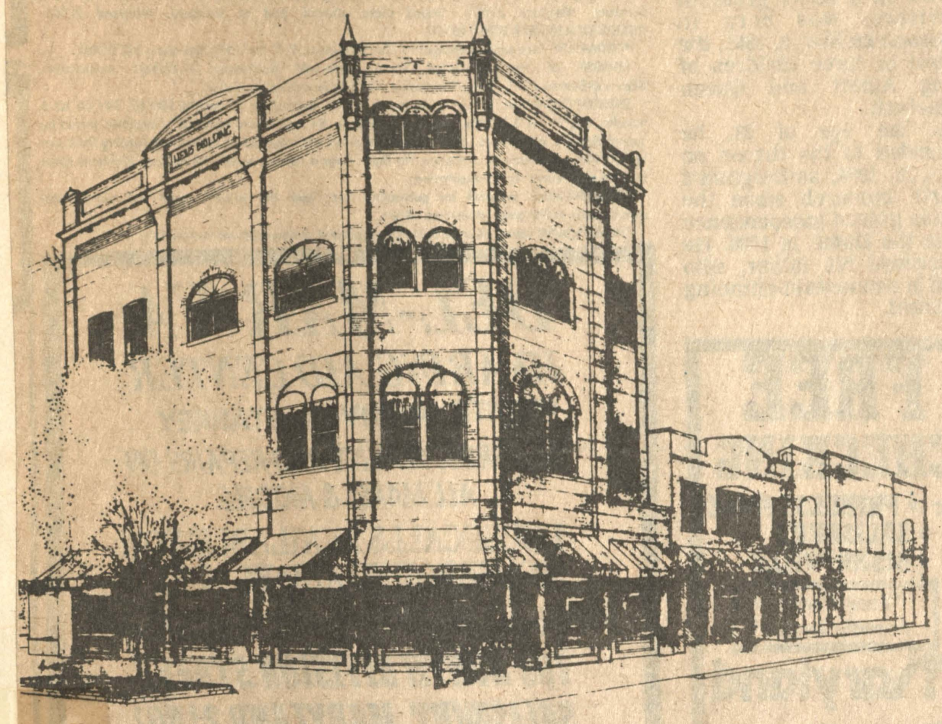
White Building Latest To Get New Look

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The building at the corner of East Main and Division streets here that houses White Jewelers and Thurston Studios is the latest downtown fixture to receive a facelift as part of the city's revitalization effort.

Workmen have removed the aluminum siding that was put on when the Downtown Plaza was created in the 1960s and are now in the process of stripping several layers of paint from the brick that was underneath.

In the next several weeks, new yellow brick will be added, restoring the building to what it probably looked like at the turn of the century.



FINAL PRODUCT. This is the architect's concept of what an all-brick facade will look like on the downtown Salisbury building facing North Division Street on the Downtown Plaza. The building is currently undergoing exterior renovations. (Drawing by Ciancitto & Associates)

Ever since the R/UDAT study in 1980, the White building has been considered an important piece in the revitalization puzzle. Because of its high visibility on a well-traveled corner, its age and its out-of-style facade, city officials have been waiting to see what impact restoration work would have.

Mike and Kitty W. Dilworth and Marie White, whose husband, the late Russell P. White, founded the jewelry store, are just as anxious to see their dream of restoring the building become a reality.

"WE HAVE to go along with the city to create an atmosphere of antiquity," said White. "At first, I wasn't in favor of all this. As they progressed, I got in the mood. It's a good feeling."

The first floor exterior is the focus of the fix-up. The new look will de-emphasize glass, replacing it with brick and wood that will bring the building's exterior closer to the sidewalk.

Above the windows, copper awnings will further accentuate the building's restoration.

The business was founded in 1922 and had several locations downtown before arriving at its present location in 1930.

The Dilworth's daughter, Carol Marie, a commercial art student in college, has designed a new logo for the family business to put the finishing touches on the new image.

The Dilworths took their time planning the changes because "we wanted to make sure we were doing this right. We had to be careful — we were going to erase changes made over the last 80 years."

DILWORTH said he doesn't know the cost of the project because when the contractor removed the aluminum siding, "we really didn't know what we had underneath." The building has qualified for $14,250 from the facade fix-up grant program run by the city revitalization corporation.

The Dilworths and White searched family photo albums and then enlisted a second floor tenant, architect Dominic Ciancitto, to come up with the proposed changes.

At some point, the Dilworths said they might consider converting the vacant third floor into apartments.

White said she is encouraged by the upbeat atmosphere among property owners, tenants and visitors to the downtown area as building restoration continues.

"I had faith this place would come back. I'm glad we could do our part," she said.

$800,000 Grant Good News For Downtown Salisbury

9/1/83

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The announcement this week by the U.S. department of Housing and Urban Development that Salisbury will be awarded an $800,000 grant is good news to those working on downtown revitalization projects here.

Four projects were submitted with the grant application earlier this summer.

The city will use $150,000 to buy and develop land for a playground near Parsons and Mitchell roads. The recreational facility would serve what will be a substantial influx of new residents in the area who will be living in Renaissance Place, a subsidized housing project overlooking Mitchell Pond.

Closer to the downtown area, the city plans to spend $212,500 on 326 feet of bulkheading along the Wicomico River off Fitzwater Street. The riverfront stabilization project is targeted to assist William J. Ahtes and a group of investors who are proposing a small boat sales and repair business on property just northeast of Chesapeake Shipbuilding.

Another $287,500 will be set aside for a massive property purchasing plan which could result in the transformation of the Lake Street-West Main Street area into a shopping center styled after Baltimore's Lexington Market.

The city is involved in negotiations to acquire some property in the area. If the acquisitions go smoothly, the city intends to sell the buildings to a St. Louis-based developer which would then undertake the riverfront conversion.

The final project which helped the city win the grant is a proposal to acquire the old G&K furniture store warehouse building on the corner of West Main and Mill streets. The city will use $120,000 to exercise an option it has on the building. City officials hope the Ward Foundation will move in, according to Valerie Melvin, a grant program administrator.

City officials and volunteers involved in the R/UDAT organization have been searching for a way to lure a permanent cultural activity to the downtown area. The Ward Foundation, which has the most extensive collection of wildfowl carvings in the world, is viewed as the most-likely and desireable candidate to boost downtown cultural activities.

The foundation's museum draws thousands of out-of-town visitors to its cramped display at Salisbury State College and through two well-attended carving events staged each spring and fall.

Some $30,000 of the grant will be used for administrative purposes. The money will be released to Salisbury today.

The $800,000 Grant

Exciting things are happening in Downtown Salisbury. The recent announcement that the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development has awarded the city an $800,000 grant is the icing on the cake for the many people who have been working on downtown revitalization.

In applying for the grant a few months ago, the city submitted four projects for consideration. At the top of the list, we think, is the possibility that the Ward Foundation may be induced to relocate its wildfowl museum in the downtown area. The Ward Foundation houses probably the finest exhibit of wildfowl carvings in the world. Presently, the musuem is housed on the campus of Salisbury State College where quarters have become somewhat cramped.

The museum, one of the city's greatest cultural assets, draws thousands of out--of-town visitors a year to this community.

The City of Salisbury will use $120,000 of the grant to pick up an option on a building on the corner of West Main and Mill streets. The location is idea for a museum setting. The location is also easy to find for motorists on nearby Route 50.

The city also plans to use $150,000 to buy and develop land for a playground near Parsons and Mitchell roads. The facility will be near a planned subsidized housing project overlooking Mitchell Pond.

The city is also planning to spend $212,500 on extensive bulkheading along the Wicomico River just off Fitzwater Street. Planners are also setting aside another $287,500 for a massive property purchasing plan which will result in the transformation of the Lake Street and West Main Street area. Revitalization workers say they are planning a large shopping center styled after Baltimore's Lexington Market. If planned acquisitions of buildings in the area go smoothly, a St. Louis-based developer will take on the riverfront conversion.

The grant award is good news for Salisbury. It means that revitalization will finally begin to move to the west of downtown, an area that has great potential in the overall revitalization program.

GORILLA HUG. Four-year-old Amy Perkins get a hug from Gonzo the Gorilla during the third annual Zoo Appreciation Day celebration at the Salisbury Zoo Saturday. Amy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Perkins of Salisbury. (Times Photo by Charmaine Culver)

9/11/83

Thousands Gather For Day At Zoo

SALISBURY — Thousands of people turned out for the third annual Zoo Appreciation Day celebration held at the Salisbury Zoo Saturday.

Amidst a carnival-like atmosphere, children were entertained by as Tarzan and Jane and their new friend, Gonzo the Gorilla, along with Merry the Clown and James Starch and his puppet friends.

The Texas Touch Band provided musical entertainment throughout the four-hour celebration. In addition, the Zoo Education Committee hosted guided tours of the various animal exhibits.

Special displays were also provided by the Philadelphia Zoo, National Aquarium, the Maryland Wildlife Administration, the Humane Society and the Blackwater Natural Wildlife Refuge.

The celebration was sponsored by the Friends of the Salisbury Zoo.

Celebration To Benefit Zoo Set

SALISBURY — The Budget Office Furniture Co. here will hold an anniversary celebration that will benefit the Salisbury Zoo.

The 10th anniversary celebration will include hot air balloon rides, musical entertainment, food and beverages, free balloons, clowns, and a touch and tell display by the Zoo.

The celebration will take place Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Budget Office Furniture grounds on Route 13 and Northwood Drive.

All food and beverage items for the celebration are being donated and will be sold to the public at a nominal charge, according to a company spokesman. All proceeds will be donated to the zoo. The Friends of the Zoo will handle the food and beverage concessions. The beverages are being donated by the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. of Salisbury and the hot dogs by the Salisbury Warehouse Market. The soft drinks will be sold for 25 cents each and the hot dogs for 50 cents each.

The hot air balloon rides are compliments of Budget Office Furniture and will be offered at $1 per person with procees going to the zoo.

Entertainment will be the bluegrass group Country Grass and members of the Clowns of Delmarva will perform.

The Salisbury Zoo Touch and Tell display will feature ostrich eggs, an incubator, a harmles snake, and other animal displays of educaional interest.

The schedule includes:

11 a.m. — opening, food, beverages, clowns and touch and tell; 12:30 p.m. — bluegrass by Country Grass; 3:30 p.m. — hot air baloon rides begin; 7:30 p.m. — celebration ends.

NEW ARRIVAL. A baby guanaco surveys the scenery of her new home at the Salisbury Zoo where her mother gave birth this week. Guanacos are natives of South America. Zoo officials aren't sure how much the little one weighs because the mother was fiercely guarding her. (Times Photo by Bill Robinson)

9/24/83

Salisbury Zoo Receives New Eagle

9/18/83

NEW AT THE ZOO. An immature male bald eagle is now a part of the Salisbury Zoo's exhibit. The zoo staff hopes he and the existing female can start a family in the future. (Times Photo)

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — A bald eagle from the Pacific Northwest is the city zoo's newest resident.

Last week, the zoo staff introduced the new bird — a male estimated to be about four years old — to the majestic matriarch of the popular eagle exhibit. So far, the pair appears to be compatible.

Like many animals at the zoo here, the story of how the new eagle relocated here has some interesting twists.

Earlier this year, zoo staffer Vic Vollkommer traveled to the Seattle, Wash. area for a vacation. Vollkommer visited the Woodland Park zoo there and discovered the staff specialized in rehabilitating injured eagles.

Vollkommer returned home with that tidbit, starting the wheels moving on a possible acquisition of a mate to match up with a lone female that has been in the zoo collection since the early 1970s.

The new male eagle received a crippling wing injury — an apparent victim of a shooting. Senior zookeeper Gary Muir said Seattle zoo and federal officials who monitor the endangered species believed the bird could not survive in the wild even after rehabilitation.

The same was true about 10 years ago when the zoo's female eagle suffered a wing injury after being struck by an airplane. Since then, two other birds have been paired with the first eagle. Unknowingly, the first was another female, which was eventually traded to another zoo for a male that died just recently.

"We wanted one that could fly some because we have such a big area," Muir said of the large netted cage behind the zoo administrative building.

The zoo staff has been encouraged by past attempts at pairings because the female has laid eggs in the past. Veteranarian analyses of unhatched eggs have shown there is nothing wrong with them except they had not been fertilized.

Muir said veteranarian science now utilizes a surgical technique to determine sex. The new bird was checked out.

Because they are rare, all bald eagles are the property of the federal government. The Salisbury zoo only holds the permit entitling the staff to care for the birds.

Whether the two will ever produce young is still up in the air. The new eagle is a few years shy of maturity, so zoo visitors may have to wait for several springs to pass before they might see the flip-flap of little wings. "You've just got to get lucky," Muir said.

The acquisition is an important one, Muir said, because the zoo staff found many visitors were concerned "the female is lonely. A lot of them want to know why we didn't have a mate for it. We like to keep people happy here."

Rural Officials Seek More Highway Money

9/29/83

ANNAPOLIS (AP) — County officials from the Eastern Shore and Southern Maryland are pushing for a bigger share of state highway funds, but most say they don't want the legislature to rush into any major changes in transportation funding.

That message was delivered Wednesday to members of the Special Joint Committee on Transportation.

Several witnesses at a hearing in Annapolis expressed concern that there might be a rush next year to make a major overhaul of the formula used to divvy up highway funds among the 23 counties and Baltimore City. They told committee members they would prefer to wait a year to see that the job is done right rather than get an unsatisfactory response to their problems at the 1984 session of the General Assembly.

COUNTY officials from the Shore, Southern Maryland and Western Maryland are generally unhappy with the distribution of the local share of revenues from the state gasoline tax.

There is a strong feeling among county officials, as well as rural legislators, that urban areas are getting more than their fair share of road funds.

Officals from the rural counties are begining a lobbying campaign to push for changes in the highway aid formula.

"We definitely need more money," Richard Winkler, director of finance for Charles County, told the committee at a hearing concerning transportation plans for Southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore.

HE SUGGESTED, however, that the legislature postpone work on writing a new formula for a year while a comprehensive study is conducted of transportation funding.

Elvin Thomas, road board administrator for Dorchester County, said that the committee "faces a real challenge in correcting inequities" built into the current funding formula. He said Dorchester County has suffered since the formula was changed in 1969 to give more weight to the number of cars registered in a county as opposed to the number of miles of county roads.

"The entire system has to be closely examined to see that all are being treated fairly. I can not justify continuation of the present system of distribution (of revenues)," Thomas said.

PATRICK FENNELL of Salisbury and Robert Maddox of Somerset County both said they are basically pleased with the formula and would be satisfied with some adjustments.

Fennell pointed out that Salisbury uses property taxes and other revenues to supplement what it gets from the state for road repair. The city projects that a total of $12.7 million will be needed for the upkeep of the city's roads, street and traffic lighting, bulkheading and railroad crossing rehabilitation in the next five years.

He said he is concerned about the number of dollars going to counties on the western shore. "We are generally satisfied with the current distribution system, but I don't want us here on the Eastern Shore to be forgotten," Fennell said.

MADDOX SAID Somerset County would like to see the number of bridges in a county taken into account when the state hands out funds for repairing and building roads and bridges.

He said his county has 24 bridges on county roads, all posted with weight restrictions. Eleven are unsafe for school buses, Maddox said.

Consideration of a change in the transportation formula is on the agenda for the 1984 legislative session, but there is no indication what, if any, changes might be made.

Water Restriction Rules Lifted

9/24/83

SALISBURY — The first of two replacement wells is now connected to the City of Salisbury's water system.

As a result, the public works department has removed temporary water restrictions. According to department officials, "full and normal water use can be resumed."

The city had asked residents to cut back on water use during the drought that plaqued the area by midsummer. A dwindling water supply problem was complicated by the failure of two wells.

City officials said citizen cooperation in following water restriction guidelines was a key to maintaining service.

New Salisbury Wells Costly

9/27/83

SALISBURY — Drilling two new wells to supply water to City of Salisbury customers will be more expensive than originally estimated.

The city council Monday night approved an additional $15,000 appropriation to cover extra costs for finishing drilling work started several months ago to replace four failing wells.

When the project was proposed in mid-summer, public works director Kenneth M. Haensler estimated the labor and some new equipment would cost the city about $60,000. But because of the poor condition of equipment that had been earmarked for recycling and other unpredictable factors associated with drilling, Haensler has revised his estimate of the bill to $75,000.

Salisbury Utility Fees Reduced

SALISBURY — The city council here has revised two obscure fees it charges some users of water and sewer services.

The council passed an ordinance Monday night that reduces the cost of charges itemized on some city water bills for outdoor hose connections. In some instances, customers who receive special water and sewer service under the Urban Services program were charged in excess of $23 a year for two outdoor hose connections. Under the new law, the same two connections would cost $7.25 a year.

City May Enter Computer Age

9/27/83

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The Salisbury city government may soon be joining the computer era.

The city council Monday night heard a report recommending that the city government continue researching the acquisition of a system that would be utilized initially for financial record-keeping.

Consultants from the Philadelphia branch of the Main Hurdman accounting firm estimated the city government performs at least 50 daily functions for taxpayers that could be included in a computer system to streamline operations. Every city department could eventually be fitted with terminals linked to a master computer if elected officials opt to make the switch.

However, the consultants said first consideration for a computer system should be given to helping the treasurer's office keep track of city finances — primarily bill collecting and budget maintenance. Other city departments could be added later if the city chose to expand the computer's programming capabilities.

The consultants estimate the cost of starting up a system in the treasurer's office in the first year would be $106,000. The cost would drop the second year to $82,000 — or approximately 1 percent of the budget.

At the same time, the study estimated the city could initially save nearly $77,000 through improved efficiency and productivity. One consultant said a new computer system would enable the city to hold the line on the number of employees, which would likely grow to handle an increased work load expected in the future.

Main Hurdman's bill for the first phase of the study was $12,700.

Wetlands Projects Hearings Scheduled

10/4/83

ANNAPOLIS — Public hearings on applications for proposed weltands projects in Wicomico County will be held by the Water Resources Administration and the state Board of Public Works Oct. 21 at 2 p.m. in the Government Office Building in Salisbury.

Norris and Deborah Matthews have applied for a license to construct a 120-foot-long bulkhead and to backfill with approximately 60 cubic yards of land source borrow at property on the Wicomico River in the Silver Run subdivision near Salisbury.

The City of Salisbury has applied for a license to construct a 38-slip public marina on the Wicomico River at West Main Street. The work would include 820 feet of bulkhead, backfilling the bulkhead with 100 cubic yards of borrow, excavating fastland and dragline dredging of a 730-foot-long by variable 25 to 150-foot-wide area near the bulkhead to a depth of 10 feet, and depositing approximately 36,000 cubic yards of excavated material on an upland disposal site.

The applications and any other pertinent details are on file in the Wetlands Division, Water Resources Administration, Tawes State Office Building, Annapolis.

Water Circulators Are Installed In Johnson's Pond

Future Swimming May Be Possible

9/20/83

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Windmill-like mechanisms designed to circulate stagnant water are in place in Johnson's Pond here, signaling the start of an experiment which might lead to the reopening of a popular swimming area.

City public works department employees began the work of anchoring four custom-built circulators off the Lakeview Drive waterfront Tuesday with the help of their inventor, Peter Freeman of Ocean Pines.

Freeman, an aeronautical engineer, came up with the design in the mid-1970s after that northern Worcester County community was told by government environmental experts that inland canals would soon be unable to support marine life because of stagnant water conditions. The potential threat of odor was also a problem.

Freeman's invention utilizes a submerged propellor driven by blades that form a wind-powered fan just above the water's surface. Prototypes were made primarily of steel, but soon succumbed to rust.

The novel design has since been refined using plastic and aluminum and about 35 are in use in the Maryland and Delaware area, Freeman said. In addition to preserving recreational water like that in Ocean Pines, the circulators are now being used in sewage treatment lagoons and commercial fish-spawning ponds.

The theory behind Freeman's design is simple. Depending on wind speed, the propellor pushes oxygen-rich water from the surface down to the bottom, where water usually has less nutrients for marine life.

WIND MACHINES. Doug King Jr., left, and Herb Miles, employees of the Salisbury's public works department, adjust one of the floats on a "circulator" that is anchored in the center of Johnson's Pond. The wind-powered machine is supposed to help fight water stagnation and problems with bacteria.(Times Photo)

City officials decided to try the Freeman method to artifically stimulate the Johnson Pond water because of problems with bacteria that caused the swimming area to be closed for the entire 1983 summer season.

In recent years, hot, dry summers have forced the local health department to order the pond's swimming areas be closed because of potential danger to humans from bacteria. Although there are no official records to prove it, city officials say an abundance of warm-water bacteria also threatens marine life. The pond is widely-known as fishermen's haven.

Installation of the circulators prompted a heated debate at a city council session several months ago. Many of residents who live within eyeshot of the pond would like to see the swimming area closed permanently because of raucous activity that takes place there.

Residents who live beyond the waterfront countered that the pond is an excellent recreational facility for families and endorsed the city's effort to improve lake conditions.

Joe Emond of Philadelphia Avenue objects to the circulators because they ruin "my view of the lake. I don't want to see them there at all. It was a great summer without all the problems. Just ask the police."

Cathy Miller of New York Avenue said she was "pleased that the city is doing something to correct the pollution problem. It'll be good in general terms to clean up the area. I understand the fishing has really been affected by all this."

The city spent about $5,000 for the four mechanism. Public works director Kenneth M. Haensler said the decision whether to reopen the swimming area rests with elected officials. "That's purely a political question," Haensler said.

When ownership of the Lakeview Drive property was questioned at the city council meeting in the spring, Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr. ordered a title search by the city attorney.

Martin said Monday Walter C. Anderson had not yet made a report on his findings but that one should be forthcoming shortly.

Zoning Change Measure Eyed

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council has been asked by a major riverfront business to change the zoning designation of its property.

The council Monday night introduced an ordinance that would redefine the land owned by Chesapeake Shipbuilding Inc. to "industrial" use. It is currently labeled for "riverfront redevelopment," which was created with the hope of encouraging more diverse development down river as part of downtown revitalization.

10/11/83

TV Station Gets Tax Reduction

SALISBURY — The city's downtown-based television station, WMDT-TV, has won a tax concession from the Salisbury City Council.

City officials Monday night OK'd the reduction of two special downtown district taxes by $7,420.32 for fiscal year 1984.

Station general manager Frank Pilgrim convinced the council that his company's equipment qualified for a commonly-granted tax exemption on tools and machinery. The firm had been sent an $11,438,16 tax bill for fiscal '84 for the special downtown parking and Plaza districts. Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr. endorsed the management's request to reduce the bill by 75 percent on a permanent basis.

The council agreed, noting the firm is paying a disproportionate amount of taxes under the existing formula.

Leaf Disposal Rules Reviewed

10/11

SALISBURY — The City of Salisbury will crackdown on people who illegally dispose of leaves and other material raked from yards.

City Council President Norman H. Conway said his Monday night warning was intended to encourage citizens to package their leaves in proper containers or bags in compliance with city law. The city garbage pick-up crews are willing to dispose of leaves if they are put in containers.

Conway said leaf burning is illegal and such activity could prompt police action with the council's backing. Conway also said failure to do raking can cause problems in storm drains.

New Collection Booth Planned

10/12

SALISBURY — Holiday visitors to the downtown business distriction will find a new addition to one of the major parking facilities.

The city will be spending about $1,000 to erect a small building off West Market Street for a parking lot attendant who will collected hourly fees. The city council approved the expenditure Monday night.

There used to be two such buildings, but one was removed when the city reopened West Market Street. City officials approved the addition because of an anticipated influx of shoppers during the holiday season. The building will be manned between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Street Changes Promised

SALISBURY — Residents of the Camden Avenue-Newton Street area should see some changes in the appearance of their streets in the near future.

The city council Monday night said it would order city departments to install new signs and repaint traffic guideline markings along the northern section of the Camden Avenue in response to complaints about high volumes of traffic.

The council also said it would encourage tighter enforcement of heavy truck restrictions in the residential neighborhood.

Shore Briefs

Zoo Group Elects Officers

10/23

SALISBURY — Randy Romblad has been elected president of the Friends of the Salisbury Zoo.

Romblad, 42, an assistant supervisor with the local state tax assessment office here, will be serving his first term as the leader of the organization. Other officers elected along with Romblad are Paul Kratzer, the vice president; treasurer John Phillips and secretary Katherine Griffith.

The election took place Oct. 13 at the Canal Woods clubhouse, which was the site of the group's annual meeting. The Friends' group is comprised of citizens who are interested in supporting the city's zoo and its educational programs.1

In addition to the slate of officers, advisory board members chosen included Frank Brittingham, Dr. Harold Eccleston, Lucille Eccleston, Kenneth Heland, Susan Jackson, Sidney Bryan, Steve Pusey, Phyllis Twilley, Sharon Kilmon, Lorraine Schmittle and Denise Gaeda.

The meeting also featured the new zoo director, Dr. Peter Crowcroft, as the guest speaker. Crowcroft spoke of ideas he has for improving the City Park facility and the role the Friends group can play in his administration.

Water Lines To Be Flushed

10/22

SALISBURY — Flushing of the city of Salisbury's water mains will begin Wednesday and will continue through Friday.

According to public works director Kenneth M. Haensler, the city has had considerable success with its semi-annual water main flushing program in the last several years.

Haensler said by opening the 375 hydrants according to a specially-designed program, the water system can be effectively cleared of most of the corrosion sediment which might find its way into consumers' plumbing fixtures.

To minimize inconvenience, the city will do the flushing between 8 p.m and 4 a.m.. While there will be no interruption of service, some discoloration of water may be expected.

Haensler recommends allowing faucets with discolored water to run for several minutes to clear up the temporary problem.

Land Near Boat Firm Rezoned

10/25

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council has restored an industrial zoning designation to land surrounding the Chesapeake Shipbuilding Corp. here.

Council president Norman H. Conway said company officials requested the change from the "riverfront redevelopment multi-use" to which the land had been changed some time ago "to insure more compatible zoning."

Already employing about 90 area residents, the firm is expected to continue its expansion here, said Conway. "We're trying to encourage that," he said.

Council Denies Tax Exemption

SALISBURY — A city tax exemption requested by the new owner of Charlies Print Shop here was denied Monday when Salisbury City Council members ruled the firm did not qualify as a new business.

Council president Norman H. Conway said the request from Donald Hitchens was denied because the city charter only allows such tax relief to certain new businesses and manufacturing equipment.

Conway said the council felt the long-established Northwood Drive firm which was recently purchased by Hitchens did not qualify.

City Purchases $25,000 Tract

SALISBURY — A $25,000 expenditure approved by the Salisbury City Council here Monday night will be used to purchased an L-shaped tract of land at Newton and Lake Streets eyed for future park development.

Salisbury City Council President Norman H. Conway said the purchase from Paschoalina Callis had been under negotiation for some time prior to Monday's unanimous council vote.

Conway said the city plans to use the site to develop the "Newton-Camden Park," complete with a playground for area youths, sometime in the future.

Monkeys!

11/2/83

Perdue Donation Brings Primate Exhibit to Zoo

Perdue Farms Incorporated has announced its sponsorship of a new primate exhibit at the Salisbury Zoological Park. The exhibit, which will house monkeys as permanent residents, is scheduled to open next spring.

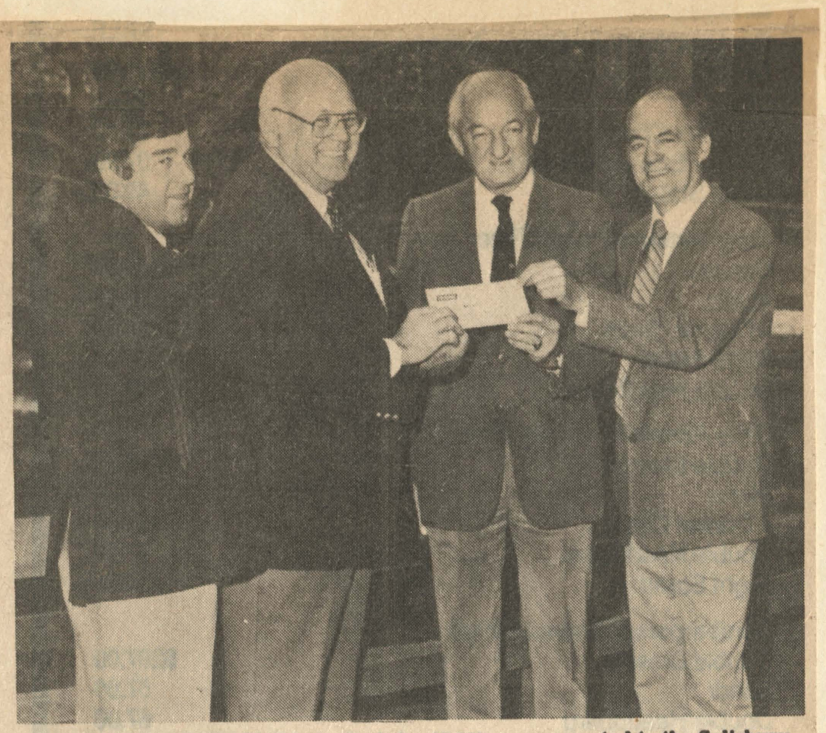
In a ceremony at the zoo on October 27, a check for $5,000 was presented by Frank Perdue, company chairman, to W. Paul Martin Jr., mayor of Salisbury; Roland Leimann, chairman of the Zoo Commission; and Peter Crowcroft, zoo director.

The free-standing outdoor exhibit area, which has been under construction for several months, will be the largest of a group of new enclosures. "Monkeys have been the most-requested addition to our collection of North and South American animals," commented Mr. Leimann. "This donation from Perdue Farms has allowed us to build an innovative structure and make arrangements to obtain fine animals."

Woolly Monkeys, which are native to South America, are the anticipated residents of the exhibit. According to Mr. Crowcroft, plans are to obtain a male and several females in order to create a "family situation."

In presenting the check, Mr. Perdue said. "We are pleased to be a part of the enrichment of the Salisbury Zoo, which is recognized as one of the finest small zoos in the country. And, we are proud

See PERDUE, pg. 3, col. 1



GENEROUS DONATION. A check for $5,000 was presented to the Salisbury Zoological Park recently by Frank Perdue, chairman of Perdue Farms, Incorporated. The donation will sponsor a new primate exhibit. Shown here (from left) are: Roland Leimann, chairman of the Zoo Commission; Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr.; Frank Perdue; and Peter Crowcroft, Zoo Director.

Continued from page 1

to be instrumental in enhancing the zoo experience for visitors of all ages."

Because admission to the zoo is free, there is no accurate count of visitors, but there are at least 100,000 annually, including families and groups of school children from Delmarva and beyond.

A special dedication ceremony is planned for the spring when the monkeys move into their new home. Salisbury Zoo will mark its 30th birthday in 1984.

11/83

ANNIVERSARY NOTED. W. Richard Holloway, left, joined by members of his family, reads from notes while addressing an audience in the Salisbury City Park Friday during ceremonies honoring the 100th anniversary of the Holloway Funeral Home in Salisbury. The family presented the city with 25 dogwood trees to mark the event. Members include, from left of the speaker, John, Robin, W. Richard Holloway Jr., Pauline and Marianna. (Times Photo)

Park Land Ownership Switched

11/15/83

SALISBURY — For $1, the City of Salisbury sold Wicomico County 44 acres of land off Naylor Mill Road which will be converted into a new recreation park.

The city council Monday night approved the sale of the land just west of Paleo Lane.

Several council members questioned city attorney Walter C. Anderson about access to possible future water well sites, but Anderson and public works officials assured them that the deed had all the necessary wording to cover such an emergency.

County officials are set to begin the first phase of construction of the park, which in its initial phases will feature several ball diamonds and a children's playground.

Playground Size In Question

11/15

SALISBURY — The City of Salisbury has acquired a large lot on the corner of Newton and Light streets for a neighborhood playground, but there may be too much property as a result of the transaction.

The city council Monday night decided to table temporarily a proposal to sell 13,000 square feet of the lot after listening to a proposal from the public works department.

The empty lot was bought from Lena Callis for $25,000 with the help of a $14,000 state grant. Public works officials say the children's playground planned for the property does not require all the land acquired, so about half could be sold as surplus.

The council decided the lot should be officially subdivided but not sold until more definite plans are made for the playground. No money is yet available for development of the project.

County Approves Land Purchase

11/17

SALISBURY — The Wicomico County Council has approved documents which clear the way for the county government to acquire 44 acres of land off Naylor Mill Road for a recreational park.

The council voted unanimously this week to approve the acquisition of the land for $1. The city of Salisbury agreed to sell the land to help the county with its park development plans.

The land will be used for construction of a softball complex and children's playground. Future plans call for construction of a soccer field and handball courts.

Utility Bills Adjusted

11/15

SALISBURY — Two city landlords who had properties with leaky pipes will be paying less than the amount on their most recent water and sewer bills, thanks to action Monday night by the Salisbury City Council.

City officials told the council that a $163.76 bill received by James W. Windsor for a house he owns on East Isabella Street should be reduced by $72.68 because leaking water never ended up in the sewer system.

The same case was made for June Smith, who owns an East Road house which also had a leak where water never ended up in the sewer system. Her $1,205.20 bill was reduced by $579.68.

The council has a policy to order such reductions on the sewer portion of substantial high bills if proof can be provided that water used was not processed by the city's sewer system.

Salisbury Zoo To Get Monkeys

11/16

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Zoo is preparing a home for a collection of monkeys.

A free-standing outdoor exhibit, which has been under construction for several months is complete, ready for the monkeys to move in next spring.

Roland Leimann, chairman of the zoo commission, said "Monkeys have been the most requested addition to our collection of North and South American animals."

Woolly monkeys, native to South America, probably will be the ones added to the zoo.

According to Peter Crowcroft, zoo director, plans are to obtain a male and several females to create what he called "a family situation."

The zoo has three small Tamarin monkeys, acquired in May. But not since 1974 have there been any large monkeys in the zoo.

Crowcroft says he doesn't know how many of the woolly monkeys will be obtained. "They are so rare that we do not know how many are available to us or even exactly when we may get them. We will just have to take what we can get," he said.

Frank Perdue of Perdue Farms Inc. recently donated $5,000 toward the cost of the monkey exhibit.

"We are pleased to be part of the enrichment of the Salisbury Zoo, which is recognized as one of the finest in the country. We are proud to be instrumental in enhancing the zoo experience for visitors of all ages," said Perdue.

The Salisbury Zoological Park claims to be one of the best small zoos in the country.

Accredited by the American Association of Zoological Parks & Aquarium and given the highest rating possible by the Humane Society of the United States, the zoo is considered outstanding in terms of professional standards in animal management and exhibition, humane practices, educational programs, and breeding and exchange programs with other zoos, according to Crowcroft.

"In these areas, we are equal to major zoos," said Roland Leimann, chairman of the zoo commission. "The difference is not in physical size or number of animals, but operating budget. There are very few small zoos operating as we do on less than a quarter of a million dollars a year."

"Being classified as small is not a concern to us. The Salisbury Zoo is not striving to be bigger in size — just even better in the quality of experiences offered our visitors," Crowcroft said. He became zoo director in September. Formerly he directed the Brookfield Zoo near Chicago as well as major zoos in Canada and in his native Australia.

When the monkeys are placed in their new home in the spring it will mark the 30th anniversary of the zoo.

"It is difficult to believe the zoo started when a white-tailed deer fawn outgrew his pen near the municipal water station and was transferred to a cage in the Municipal Park, where picnickers named him Thomas, said Leimann.

"The new monkey house is essentially a large welded wire mesh cage, constructed of 15-foot high wooden posts and natural beams. Viewing sides are angled irregularly, which will offer environmentally-pleasing views," said Crowcroft. "It has an area of 18,000 cubic feet so there will be ample swinging space amid the trees and ropes to accomodate the habits of South American monkeys with prehensile tails."

Although visitors will be kept at arms length from the wire mesh for safety, Crowcroft has proposed an innovation in the enclosure's design. "We now plan to include a glass window area — a photographer's porthole — so pictures can be taken without obstruction. Of course, youngsters will be able to safely see the monkeys nose-to-nose through the windows, too."

It's known as the world's tallest Christmas tree. In December 1950 a Douglas fir was placed at the Northgate Shopping Center in Seattle. The tree was 221 feet tall.

Ramp Permit Under Review

11/17

ANNAPOLIS — The Water Resources Administration is reviewing an application for a "waterway construction permit" sought by the City of Salisbury.

The city has applied for the permit to construct a boat launching ramp at Rose Street off Lake Street. City officials are hoping to build the ramp on the pond's west bank to appease residents on the opposite shore who have complained about the noisy, early morning arrivals of fishermen.

The WRA has made a tentative decision to issue the permit.

State law provides that the public be given an opportunity to request a hearing on the application. Written requests stating the issues to be presented must be received by the state agency by Nov. 21.

For more information on the application, citizens should write to the Director, Water Resources Administration, Tawes State Office Building, Annapolis, Md. 21401.

GARDEN WORK. Planting a holly bush in the Colonial garden at Poplar Hill Mansion in Salisbury are Four Seasons Garden Club members, from left: Mrs. Andrew Booth, club president; Mrs. Donald H. Broderick and Mrs. Robert Howatt. As a special community project, the club tends the colonial garden at the mansion which they redesigned. Mrs. Broderick and Mrs. Howatt, along with Mrs. Leslie Payne who is not pictured, are the co-chairmen of the project. (Times Photo)

11/14/83

UP, UP AND AWAY! Salisbury city employees watch as a 40-foot Norway spruce Christmas tree is moved Thursday by a crane, hidden by buildings, onto a special stand on the Downtown Plaza in Salisbury. Acquired by the Downtown Merchants Association, the tree will be decorated with lights and remain up through December. Area businesses provided the tree at no cost to the city. (Times Photo by Brice Stump)

11-18-83

on The Plaza
Friday, Nov. 25

4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m./Buffet by English's, City Center, 2nd Floor (Old Benjamins Bldg.)

4:30 p.m./Len Grey Orchestra

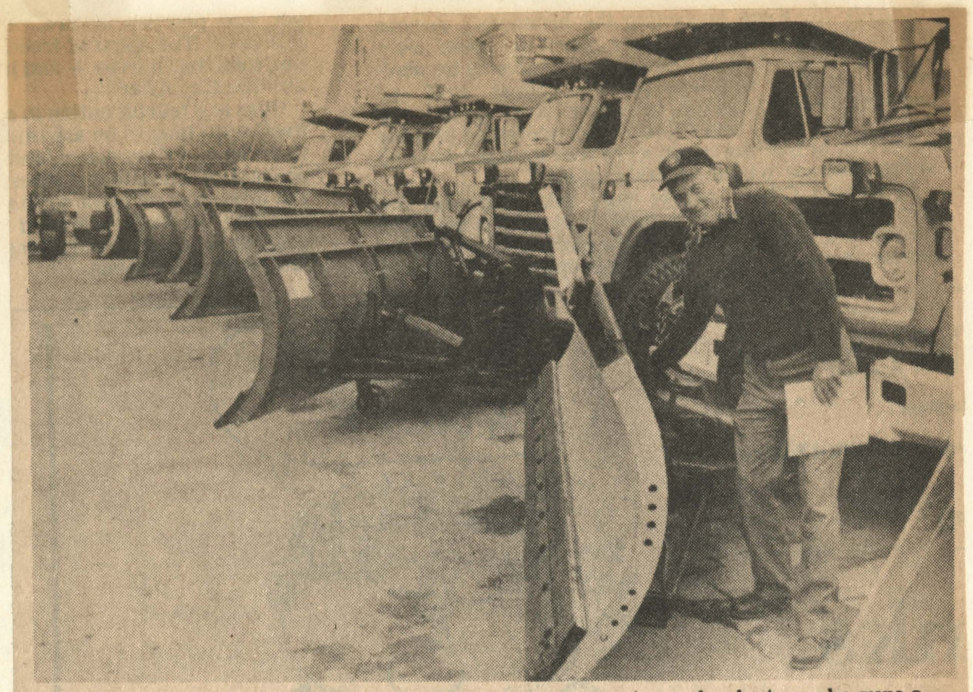
6:00 p.m./Ceremony & Lighting of Tree

6:05 p.m./Santa ARRIVES with special Treat for the children

6:15 p.m./Old Fashioned Carol Sing-a-long

Stores Open 'til 9 p.m.

Festive holiday greetings and refreshments in many stores



LOOKS OK. Joe Callaway, Salisbury highway supervisor, checks to make sure a snow plow is secure on the front end of a truck in the fleet of vehicles reviewed for emergency preparedness by city officials Wednesday. (Times Photo by Bill Robinson)

Salisbury Snow Fleet Is Ready For Winter Action

11/83

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Salisbury public works department officials Wednesday declared the city's snow removal fleet ready and able for another winter of action.

Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr. said residents don't have to worry about their streets being impassable because of snow after witnessing a pep talk by public works director Kenneth M. Haensler and a parade of vehicles such as snowplows, front-end loaders and salt spreading trucks.

"I hope we don't need them, but they're ready. These guys do a wonderful job. They never get enough credit," Martin said.

Despite the unseasonably warm temperatures reaching into the 60s for the second day in a row, Haensler said public works employees always meet the day before Thanksgiving to review assignments should bad weather hit the city.

HAENSLER said he has a $20,000 budget again this year for salt purchases and other costs which mount during the winter season.

Last winter, Haensler said, he spent just under half that amount, leaving him with enough money to buy two new blades for snowplows.

The men who drive the six dump truck-like plows and a half dozen other pieces of heavy equipment have instructions to operate around the clock to keep streets clear. The city has more than 100 miles of designated "snow emergency routes," which must be kept clear when a snow emergency is declared.

The emergency routes are given priority during snow clearing sweeps. The system was developed so every city resident would live within at least two blocks of a cleared street despite the accumulation of large amounts of snow, Haensler said.

For the first time this year, Wicomico County's Civil Defense agency will be monitoring street clearing operations, helping public works crews identify areas of the city immediately in need of snow removal.

Yule Tree Lighting Festivities Slated

SALISBURY — The traditional Christmas tree lighting ceremony will be held in downtown Salisbury Friday, Nov. 25.

Festivities will begin at 4:30 p.m. with a holiday buffet on the second floor of the new City Center on the Downtown Plaza. The buffet will be catered by English's Catering Service.

A high school band will entertain with Christmas music. Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr. will flip the switch to light the giant 40-foot Norway spruce tree at 6 p.m.

Santa Claus will arrive at 6:05 p.m.

A free shuttle trolley service will again be offered during the Christmas shopping season. The route will include the Downtown Plaza, Outlet Shops, Twilley Shopping Centre, Salisbury Mall and Salisbury State College.

Local banks and the R/UDAT Action Group are sponsoring the free shuttle service, which will begin Friday, Dec. 2, and will operate every Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the first three weeks of December.

During Christmas week, shuttle service will be offered Monday through Saturday form 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Other events are being planned for downtown Salisbury during the holiday season. More information may be obtained from Downtown Revitalization office at 749-1905.

Shore Briefs

Association To Hold Meeting

12/83

SALISBURY — The Newton Street-Camden Avenue Civic Association will hold its December meeting Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the rectory meeting room of St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church on Camden Avenue. Tom Plotts of the Salisbury Department of Public Works will discuss traffic hazards on Camden Avenue and plans for solution of the problems. A spokesman from the City Police Department will be on hand to speak on the neighborhood crime watch project and tell how to protect one's home. The audience will also hear an update on the housing code and the proposed neighborhood park in the area. The Association meets the third Thursday of the month.

Landmarks Of A Past Era

Old Wicomico Schooners Dismantled

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

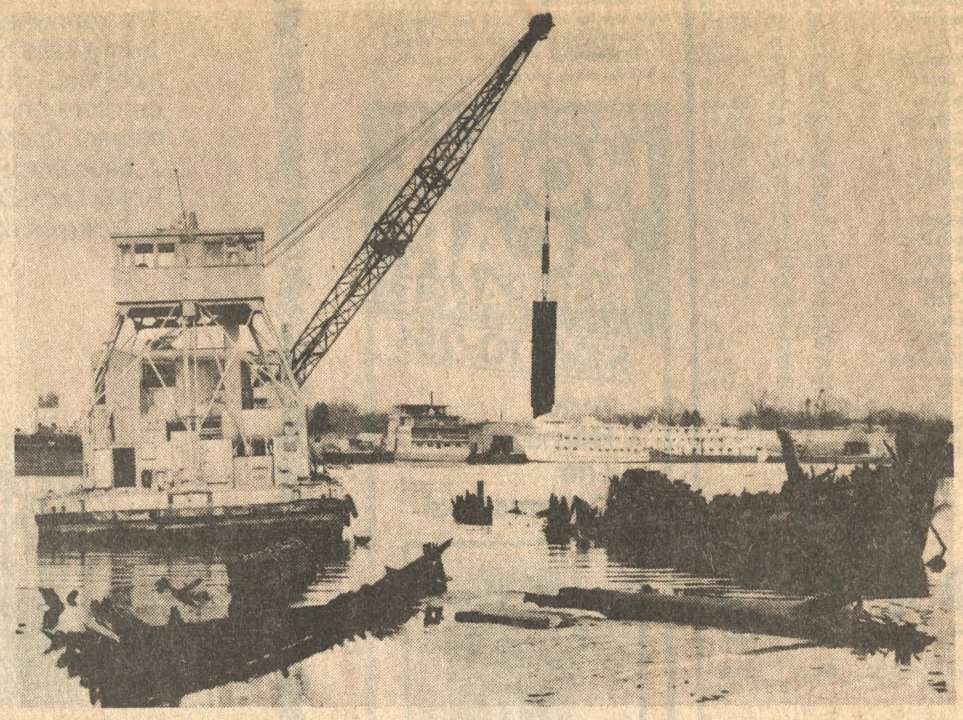
SALISBURY — Two ghost-like landmarks of an era that is only a memory here are being put to rest.

On a mud flat of the upper Wicomico River, just off of Ridge Road, a marine excavation company is dismantling the remains of two old schooners which for more than two decades provided an eerie reminder of this city's once-proud image as a major inland sailing port.

The decision to remove the sailing ships — one the Jennie D. Bell and the other thought to be the Blackbird — was initiated by the city government for several reasons.

During his first two years in office, Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr. has supported public and private efforts to refurbish the city's waterfront.

With the rebirth of a Fitzwater Street shipyard and plans to start construction of a public marina off West Main Street sometime next year, Martin believes the city is showing its commitment to giving the city's riverfront a new image.



DISMANTLING MEMORIES. A work barge directs a guillotine-like metal plate into the hull of an old schooner wedged into a mud flat along the Wicomico River in Salisbury. The old ship is being removed to improve the waterfront. (Times Photo by Bill Robinson)

AS A practical matter, the ships are being excavated from the mud as a precautionary move so they won't pose navigational hazards to the commercial barges and cruise ships which move along the river. Thousands of dollars have been spent in the last decade dredging the river to keep it clear for cargo barges.

The old wooden-hulled ships also represented a potential eyesore to inhabitants of two new fashionable duplex homes built along a riverfront cul-de-sac off Ridge Road.

The city acquired a $25,000 grant from the state of Maryland's Waterway Improvement Fund to pay for the work, but a recent evaluation of the project added $10,000 to project's original estimate. The city council two weeks ago struck an agreement with the state to share the cost of the overrun.

Many long-time city residents remember the 125-foot Jennie D. Bell and how it came to its last resting place.

In October 1961, the schooner's last owner and captain, Clarence Heath, decided to abandon it at its present location after living on it for years with his wife. Historians believe it was the last ship of its class to operate on the Chesapeake Bay.

KNOWN as "sailing rams," three-masted ships like the Bell served as workboats carrying cargo such as coal, lumber and fertilizer to ports along the East Coast.

The Bell was built in 1898 in Bethel, Del. It carried its last commercial load in the late 1950s. The 194-ton ship, with a beam of 23½ feet, was damaged in a storm shortly after it last hauling job and spent the rest of its time in the Wicomico River.

Matt Aydelotte of the city public works department believes the other hull is that of the schooner Blackbird. Aydelotte said little written material he was able to research was available about the Blackbird's history as a sailing vessel.

Former city councilman Harrell Granger said the other day, upon noticing the excavation barge battering the Bell's hull, "It was a symbol of our city's history. It's a shame to see it have to go."

12/12/83

BEGINNING SAT., NOV. 26
SEE SANTA
ON
SALISBURY'S DOWNTOWN PLAZA
MON.-FRI. 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. & 4 to 8 P.M.
SAT. 11 A.M. to 4 P.M.
FREE PARKING WITH PARK 'N SHOP
STICKERS FROM PARTICIPATING STORES.
STORES OPEN MON.-FRI. 'TIL 9 P.M.
SAT. 'TIL 5 P.M.

Hundreds Watch Tree Lighting

11/26/83

Santa Arrives In Salisbury

By By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The Downtown Plaza was teeming with children of all ages Friday night.

The largest crowd ever to witness the official lighting of the giant Christmas tree gathered at the foot of St. Peter's Street as Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr. and members of the city council took part in the ceremony.

Hundreds of people — from toddlers to grandparents — braved the chill to watch the early evening activities on the Downtown Plaza.

Martin was one of many who said the crowd was a record-breaker. He should know, he's been a city elected official for almost three decades and has attended many lighting ceremonies.

A loud cheer echoed among the brightly-lit plaza buildings shortly after Martin slipped away from a microphone to throw the switch which illuminated the 40-foot tree, brought here from a farm near Easton especially for the holidays.

LIGHTING THE TREE. Salisbury Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr. is all smiles while throwing the switch which illuminated the giant Downtown Plaza Christmas tree during holiday season ceremonies Friday night. (Times Photos by Bill Robinson)

Off in the distance, flashing blue and red lights from police cars could be seen heading up East Main Street. Within minutes, a convertible sports car driven by an unusually-plump elf parted the crowd. Behind the car in a rickshaw-like wagon rode the man of the hour, Santa Claus. Children pressed around him.

This year's grand entrance by Claus had a different twist however. Sitting next to old St. Nick was Mrs. Claus.

Mrs. Claus seemed to be equally popular. Hordes of children jumped out of line in front of Santa's workshop to get a complimentary piece of candy from her.

Alina Horne, a 10-year-old from Blades, walked up to her with an autograph book for a signature. Mrs. Claus obliged.

As a group of people sang Christmas carols beneath the lighted tree, one bystander said, "It's great to see this many people out here again. It feels like the old days, again."

List Made For Open Space Program

SALISBURY — Seven projects are on the preliminary list the City of Salisbury may recommend as projects it believes might qualify for grants under the state-funded Program Open Space.

The list was developed Monday by the city council, which endorsed four ideas of the public works department and came with three of its own.

The state of Maryland utilizes Program Open Space as a method for distributing money for development of recreation and outdoor-activity projects by cities and counties. The program is highly competitive and has provided thousands of dollars for recreational facilities throughout Wicomico County over the years.

The public works department is seeking money for three projects designed to continue expansion of Riverwalk Park and a fourth for a playground in the Newton-Camden neighborhood.

Those projects alone carry an estimated price tag of $135,000.

The city council added ideas for developing a children's playground at the northern end of Emerson Avenue, acquisition of riverfront land for marina development and another playground for children in the Newtown neighborhood.

City officials acknowledge, however, that the county's proposal to develop a major recreation complex in the Naylor Mill Road area will likely receive most of next year's funding provided by Program Open Space.

City officials said citizens are encouraged to come forward with other similar projects which might be added to the early planning list. The final list of requests to be submitted by he city is not due until the spring of 1984. 12/13/83

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SALISBURY-WICOMICO COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider several proposed changes to Salisbury's Disposition Plan for Surplus City Owned Land in Salisbury's Central Business District.

The following City owned property is declared in the Plan to be surplus and available for sale, but the City is considering retaining it:

All that area bounded by N. Salisbury Blvd., Calvert Street, Poplar Hill Avenue and E. Church Street; contaning municipal parking lot; and

All that area binding on the East Prong of the Wicomico River and E. market Street, and situated between Baptist Street and Poplar Hill Avenue; containing about 12,000 sq. ft., and currently landscaped.

The following City owned property is shown to be retained in the Plan, but the City is considering declaring it surplus and available for sale:

All that area bounded by Poplar Hill Avenue, Old Water Street, The Old School Baptist Church property, and E. Church Street; containing municipal parking lots.

A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON
Thursday
Dec. 15, 1983
At 1:30 P.M.
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
Government Office Building
North Division Street
And E. Church Street
Salisbury

to hear comments and recommendations prior to submission of the Commission's recommendations to City Council for further consideration.

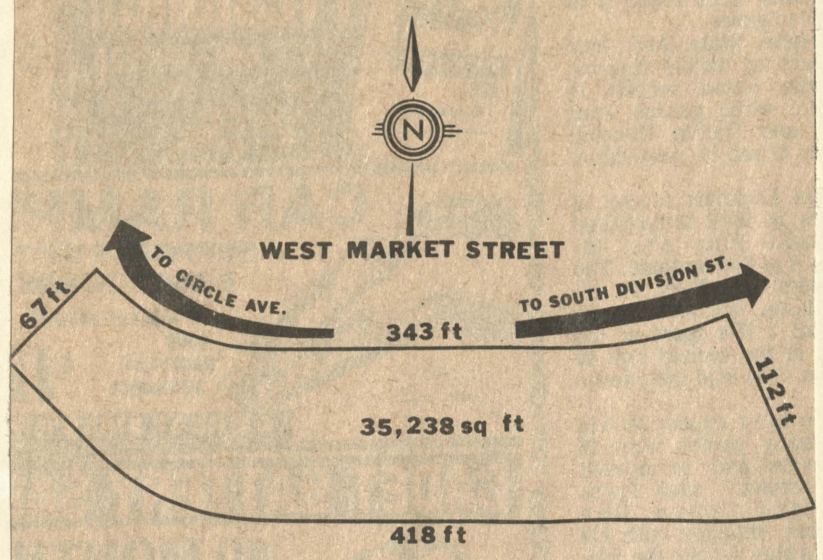
Copies of the plan and proposed changes are available in the office of the Planning Commission, Room 203, Government Office Building.

For further information call 742-3072.

John Somers, Jr.,
Chairman

12/4, 12

NOTICE
SALE OF LAND
The City of Salisbury, Maryland



The Salisbury City Council offers for sale all that City owned land in Salisbury's Central Business District situated between the East Prong of the Wicomico River and West Market Street. It contains 35,238 sq. ft., more or less, with frontage of 418 feet on the River, 343 feet on West Market Street with a depth of 67 to 112 feet: address; 116-130 W. Market Street. All City services are available.

Said land is declared surplus and is offered for sale in accordance with terms set forth in Article XVI of Salisbury's Charter, and Resolution No. 240 approving a Plan for the disposition of surplus City owned land in Salisbury's Central Business District. In accordance with the Plan, City Council will enter into a contract conveying said land to the person, parties, or firm submitting the highest bid and best proposal for the purchase and development of the land.

Bidding documents, including a copy of Salisbury's Downtown Surplus Land Disposition Plan, may be secured for the sum of ten dollars ($10.00) at the Office of the City Purchasing Department, Room 305, Government Office Building, P.O. Box 791, Salisbury, Maryland 21801.

The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any irregularities, and to negotiate with the bidder so that the award can be made in the best interests of the City.

Sealed proposals will be accepted in the Office of the City Purchasing Department until 10:00 A.M. E.S.T. on Monday, February 20th, 1984.

By Or

Ex

12/4,11,18

PRESENTS CHECK. Katrina Brittingham, chairman of the Salisbury Jaycee Women's arts and craft festival, presents a check for $400 to Peter Crowcroft, director of the Salisbury Zoo, from the proceeds of the fund-raising project. 12/5/83

CITY OF SALISBURY
PUBLIC NOTICE

A public hearing will be held by the Mayor and Council at 8:05 P.M. on 27 December 1983 in the Council Chambers, Room 301, of the City-County Government Building. The purpose of the public hearing is to give interested citizens the right to comment on the Mayor's proposal to amend the current FY 1984 budget regarding Federal Revenue Sharing Funds. The Mayor and Council anticipated the recent passafe of the new Federal Revenue Sharing bill and budgeted their anticipated funds in the following General Fund categories: Blacktop - $150,000; Street Maintenance - $80,000 and Storm Drain Maintenance - $22,518.

The Mayor purposes to shift the $252,518 in Federal Revenue Sharing funds to Pension Payments in the General Fund to simplify the administration of the Revenue Sharing fund. The blacktop, street maintenance and storm drainage projects will be completed using general funds.

If the Mayor's proposal is approved, the City budget total will remain the same as approved in June 1983 which is as follows:

Category	Total Of All Funds	Revenue Sharing Funds
Highway Lighting	$7,143,032	$265,000
Pension Payments	$7,143,032	$252,518
Water Fund	$1,154,498	0
Sewer Fund	$1,111,577	0
Parking Dist. 1	$ 330,406	0
Parking Dist. 2	$ 102,894	0
Plaza Dist. 1	$ 25,193	0
Plaza Dist. 2	$ 15,653	0

All interested citizens will have the opportunity to give written and oral comments. The above information with a copy of the entire budget is availble for public inspection in room 304 of the City-County Government Building.

Patrick J. Fennell
Executive Secretary

12/16

Code Violation Plan Proposed

12/13/83

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — A law which would give high-ranking city officials the right to issue citations for violations of municipal codes has been introduced here by the city council.

The proposal was offered Monday night by inspections bureau director Henry P. Wojtanowski, who said his office has little authority to enforce codes when his inspectors discover violations.

Wojtanowski's proposed measure calls for the implementation of a fine system through the issuance of citations.

First-time violators would be subjected to a $25 fine and repeat offenders could be fined as much as $50 per violation.

People accused of violating codes on construction, electric service, plumbing, housing and zoning would have the right to challenge the citation in district court.

Wojtanowski's prpposal currently has no provisions for warnings or waivers of fines if violations are corrected before the fine is due to be paid. The inspections chief said he would support addition of those procedures if the council thought they should be added.

City council attorney Walter C. Anderson said it would be wrong to go without a warning provision in a law designed to set up a penalty system.

Despite testimony that other communities utilize such laws with success, Anderson said he had misgivings about the strength and enforceability of such an infractions law.

"If I was on the other side, I know how I'd vote," said Anderson, indicating he would recommend against final approval. Anderson's remark was in response to a council member's question about the law's ability to stand up in court.

The measure, as proposed, would supplement the city zoning code enacted last May, Wojtanowski said.

Violators would be charged with a misdemeanor as a civil offense. Those authorized to write citations include Wojtanowski, the public works director and his assistant, inspectors of buildings, housing and plumbing, all city police officers, the highway superintendent, the general superintendent of public works and the solid waste department foreman.

Executive Secretary Patrick J. Fennell said the city staff believes a tougher infractions law is needed to show taxpayers community standards laws will be backed up by enforcement.

THE DAILY TIMES

Edward C. White, Publisher and General Manager
Mel Toadvine, Managing Editor
Donald Brown, Advertising Manager — Barbara Bradley, Classified Supervisor
James Mixon, Circulation Manager

PAGE 4 — Salisbury, Md. Wed., Dec. 14, 1983

A Good Proposal

The Salisbury City Council is considering an ordinance which would give some city officials authority to issue citations for code violations.

Inspections Bureau Director Henry P. Wotjanowski, who proposed the ordinance, has complained his office has little authority to enforce codes when violations are discovered.

As proposed, first-time violators of codes on construction, electric service, plumbing, housing and zoning would be subject to a $25 fine and repeat offenders could be fined as much as $50 per violation.

The ordinance does not, however, contain provisions for warnings or waivers of fines if violations are corrected before the fine is due.

We agree with city attorney Walter C. Anderson that it would be wrong to pass the ordinance without a warning provison. Anderson noted he had misgivings about the strength and enforceability of such an infractions law.

Wotjanowski's proposal would supplement the city zoning code enacted last May. It is a good zoning code, but if inspectors have little authority to enforce it, violations will be ignored. Wotjanowski has no objections to provisions for waivers or a warning system.

Under his proposal, violators would be charged with a misdemeanor as a civil offense. Those authorized to write citations include Wotjanowski, the public works director and his assistant, inspectors of buildings, housing and plumbing, all city police officers, the highway superintendent, the general superintendent of public works and the solid waste department foreman.

A tougher infractions law is needed.

We believe Wotjanowski's proposal — with provisions for warnings and waivers — should be adopted. Code violators must know they will be prosecuted.

News In Brief

12/13/83

Trash Law Amendment Proposed

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council has introduced an ordinance that would shift responsibility of enforcing trash laws under the new housing code to the public works department.

The council voted unanimously to introduce the measure on a first reading Monday night. A final vote could take place at the next meeting in two weeks.

The city inspections bureau chief, Henry P. Wojtanowski, said garbage pickup chores are handled by the public works department and the agency should accept responsibility for monitoring compliance. Council members agreed.

New Salisbury Measure

12/28/83

Code Enforcement Law Approved

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Residents who fail to comply with any city code can now be issued citations for violations and tried in court on misdemeanor charges.

The city council Monday night unanimously approved on final reading an amendment to the city code which puts more teeth into enforcement of all city codes and sets up a fine procedure.

City officials sought the measure because they believe a tougher infractions law was needed to show taxpayers that standards laws will be backed up enforcement.

ONLY TWO adjustments were made to the measure before the final final vote. City attorney Walter C. Anderson added a phrase giving those authorized to issue citations the right to issue preliminary warnings about violations. It also gives only high-ranking department heads the authority to waive a fine if a violation is corrected.

The other change involved granting violators 20 days to pay a fine instead of the previously recommended 10-day period.

First-time violations could mean a $25 fine and repeat offenses could carry a $50 fine.

While the law is labeled "municipal infractions procedures" and is supposed to be applied to all city codes, city officials believe it was needed to strengthen the recently-adopted "housing, maintenance and occupancy" code.

IN A related development, the city council also enacted another law giving the public works department the authority to issue warnings and tickets to citizens who fail to comply with garbage disposal provisions in the housing code.

That law says all trash must be placed in metal or plastic trash cans with tightly-secured lids. Bags are no longer allowed.

No one showed up to object to either law being adopted. Two members of the Camden Avenue-Newton Street neighborhood association said their organization endorsed the new laws.

12/4/83

A Look At Salisbury – 60 Years Ago

By CHARLES J. TRUITT SR.

Editor's Note: Charles J. Truitt Sr. of Salisbury — newspaperman, radio and television executive and author — looks back to Salisbury on Dec. 3, 1923, the day *The Daily Times* published its first daily edition. Truitt was news editor when the newspaper — then called *The Evening Times* — first appeared.

SALISBURY — In 1923, Salisbury's population was less than one-third of its present metropolitan census.

East Main Street stopped at the NYP&N Railroad tracks and was privately owned. It and seven others streets in the immediate area were built and owned by The Salisbury Realty Co. That company had bought the land, which until 1909 had been the bottom of Lake Humphreys. The reclaimed land was being filled in and developed into more than 300 commercial lots.

West Main Street was paved with the original large mold bricks laid in 1904 to 1906. Horse-drawn vehicles outnumbered the motorized. A white-clad street cleaner, with pushcart, broom and shovel, daily cleared the street of animal droppings.

The city did not own any water and sewer lines. The few existing mains were built and owned by abutting property owners.

Horses used for street work and to pull firefighting equipment were still stabled in City Hall on West Church Streets. It would be three years before the fire department would be motorized.

James Spence's stage met all passenger trains at Union Station to transport travelers to the Central Hotel on East Church Street and the Peninsula Hotel on West Main Street. A third hotel, the Salisbury, was within walking distance of the station.

In the year of *The Daily Times'* birth, a campaign was under way to finance construction of the seven-story Wicomico Hotel, which is now One Plaza East.

The only brick school in the county was Wicomico High on Upton Street, where *The Daily Times* building now stands. Some 50 one-room frame schools dotted the Wicomico County.

A site on Camden Avenue Extended had been chosen for the State Normal School — now Salisbury State College.

Shopping centers, as we know them today, were unheard of. The shops were concentrated on West Main Street between Division Street and the bridge. There, on Saturdays, shoppers crowded shoulder to shoulder until nearly 9 p.m. when store-closing time arrived.

The handsome National Guard armory stood on the site now occupied by the Wicomico County Free Library.

The two-story, red-brick county jail stood at the rear of the courthouse.

The post office and People's National Bank were on the ground floor of the Masonic Temple. On the second floor was Beacom Business College.

The steamer Joppa left Salisbury for the 12-hour overnight trip to Baltimore on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, carrying passengers and freight.

The BC&A and NYP&N railroads were flourishing with passenger and freight business. In fact, business was so good on the NYP&N a second parallel track was built down the Peninsula. The headquarters and extensive rail yards of the BC&A were in Salisbury.

Electric energy was supplied by the Salisbury Light Heat and Power Co. There were no electrical appliances for the home, such as refrigerators, freezers, kitchen ranges laundering machines or air conditioners.

Only a few people were proud possessors of a battery-powered radio. It would be many years before television crowded the air waves.

The few metropolitan daily newspapers that reached Salisbury came by train. *The Wicomico News* — one of the most influential weeklies in Maryland at that time — and the ever-enduring *Salisbury Advertiser* tried to fulfil the inhabitants' thirst for news.

In this atmosphere and under these circumstances, Salisbury's daily newspaper made its appearance 60 years ago. The casual observer might conclude the newspaper arrived as the town of Salisbury was beginning to emerge from a town into a small city.

City Featured in National Historic Preservation Conference

11/22/83

BY MAUREEN McNEILL

Across the country, historic neighborhoods are being restored to their original beauty. Not only do the old houses get a fresh beginning, but the community gets a new outlook, as well.

The national movement toward rebuilding such communities is being furthered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This year, at that group's 37th National Preservation Conference in San Antonio, Texas, organizers of a round table discussion on incentives for rehabilitation turned to Salisbury for its success story. City Councilwoman Martha Graham, who played a key role in the Newtowne neighborhood, represented Salisbury at the conference.

As former chairman of the Newtowne Historic District Commission and a founding member of the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions, Graham was able to bring personal observations to the national group. Her vantage point on historic preservation ranges from the hands-on exposure of working in drywall and plaster to her position on City Council. Mrs. Graham says that the key to the success of revitalizing Newtowne and The Plaza in downtown Salisbury has been the social and economic advantages recognized by the community.

Newtowne and the Downtown Historic District have seen not only the economic appreciation of the properties involved, but the creation of an exciting social environment. The vitality that has been rediscovered in Downtown and in Newtowne has become a major

City Councilwoman Martha Graham recently participated in a round table discussion at the annual conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, where she described the successful renovation projects in Salisbury. (News and Advertiser photo)

asset to Wicomico County, Graham told the Conference.

Newtowne has benefited from not just a fresh coat of paint, but from several activities that have brought the neighborhood closer. Covered dish suppers and a variety of social occassions have created an opportunity for getting

See CITY, pg. 2, col. 4

City of Salisbury Featured in National Historic Preservation Conference

Continued from page 1

to know one another beyond just comparing notes on the best carpenters and hardward stores in the area. According to Graham, "The social dynamics and the actual housing restoration began at the same time and there was always a strong effort to develop community spirit, even though the economic advantages of restoration were obvious. Activities such as a newsletter, house tours and covered dish suppers made it a warm and friendly neighborhood that attracted newfamilies."

The Downtown Historic District has been successfully renovated and the task called for its own set of solutions. As Graham told the conference-goers, "the city provided economic incentives through HUD funds. As the community began to look better, a strong promotional effort created excitement in the form of Arts Festivals, Crab Feasts, music programs and exhibitions" which drew the public back into the downtown area.

As Graham pointed out, the social benefits of restoring a community are as important as the economic ones. Both must receive attention from the time a renovation project of the scale of Newtowne and Downtown begins.

At the conference, according to Graham, the consensus among the participants was that the preservation movement is proceeding in the right direction. The thrust for the future will be in maintaining what has been preserved and focusing on projects for the public at large, a move which Graham agrees is a step in the right direction. As evidenced in this most recent conference, the National Trust for Historic Preservation is beginning to respond to the needs of the public, rather than the homes of an elite few. According to Graham, preservation is aimed at the roots and fabric of the entire society, which needs to be recognized.

As Salisbury continues to benefit from the restoration of its neighborhoods and downtown shopping district, the national preservation movement has begun to take notice of this community and its success story.

Truck Ban Opposed In Salisbury

SALISBURY — A recommendation to restrict truck traffic along Baltimore and Philadelphia avenues has met with opposition from all five members of the Salisbury City Council.

Council members debated the merits of such a proposal Monday night with several department heads and finally decided the issue should be discussed with neighboring property owners and businesses which would be affected by such restrictions.

THE IDEA to ban trucks with more than two axles came from the city's public works department, whose representatives said during the council session that such traffic had become disruptive to property owners between Route 13 and North Division Street.

Councilman Samuel W. Seidel led the opposition to the proposed truck ban, saying he was concerned about what the impact would be to a local motel that depends on truckers' business.

Seidel pressed his point when he learned that public works officials had not made the motel's owner aware of their proposal. Other council members soon followed suit when the discussion evolved into a full-scale debate over whether local truckers would be exempted from the law.

12/13/83

Council Approves Truck Ban

SALISBURY — A revised plan for banning westbound truck traffic along West Philadelphia Avenue has won the approval of the Salisbury City Council.

The council Monday night endorsed a proposal calling for signs reading "No Thru Trucks Over Two Axles" near the intersection of West Philadelphia Avenue and Benton Place.

The proposal was developed following a conference between public works officials, Best Western Motel owner Joe Rodriquez and Councilman Samuel W. Seidel. City officials had become concerned over an increased amount of heavy truck traffic on North Division Street. Some of the truckers stay overnight at Rodriquez's motel.

Duplex Subdivision Approved

SALISBURY — Developer Wilson Davis has been praised by the city council here for developing an obscure riverfront lot off Ridge Road into a location for two fashionable duplex houses.

Davis appeared before the council Monday night in the last presentation he had to make to win a property subdivision variance he sought so the residences and lots could be sold individually.

Davis' proposal previously had the support of the city planning and zoning office staff. The council voted unanimous to grant Davis the variance.

Federal Aid Frees Up Funding

SALISBURY — When the City of Salisbury's current budget was struck nearly six months ago, there was some uncertainty whether federal revenue sharing funds would be available for use toward public works maintenance projects.

Monday night, the city council held a public hearing where it approved a plan for using the late-arriving federal aid.

Because $252,518 in federal money is now available, the city can make its obligatory payment to an employee pension program and use an identical amount for black topping, street maintenance and storm drain management.

12/28/83

Sports Complex Will Alleviate Noise Problem

By ERIC MAGILL
Times Sports Staff

SALISBURY — If everything turns out as Gary Mackes hopes, Wicomico County's neighborhoods will have peaceful summer days and nights once again.

At least the neighborhoods won't suffer from the residue of softball tournaments anymore.

Mackes — the director of the Wicomico County Department of Recreation and Parks — and county and City of Salisbury officials, have been aware of a number of problems associated with the county's ever-growing outdoor athletic programs.

So, the city donated to the county a wooded, 41-acre tract of land on Naylor Mill Road that all involved hope will alleviate those problems.

"The county has a profound need for a public outdoor sports program and we've outgrown our current facilities," said Mackes, who has helped in the development of the Wicomico County Athletic Complex, which, beginning in the spring of 1986, will provide county residents with improved softball, baseball, soccer and playground facilities.

"THIS WASN'T something where someone one day just said, 'let's build one,' " he continued. "It has been on the drawing board for at least four years. We've had to rely heavily on neighborhood fields and we've become a nuisance to the residents. So, to stay abreast with our growth, it was prudent for us to look into an outdoor athletic complex."

(Continued On C3)

be paid for through Wicomico County's 1984 Capital Improvement Program ($43,000) and by Program Open Space ($129,000).

With that money, the site will be cleared, filled, graded and drained and seeded. Utilities will also be installed.

Phase II will cost $30,000, with which Scenic Drive — now undeveloped — will be paved over by the Wicomico County Roads Department while Phase I construction is in progress.

MACKES SAYS he expects Phase III to begin in late 1984 or early 1985. He said $227,500 from the county's 1985 Capital Improvement Program and an expected $83,000 from Program Open Space will be used for Phase III, which will be the installation of the complex's facilities.

One of the softball fields will have lights and seating for 1,500 spectators, Mackes said. The other three fields will have seating for 400 spectators, but only one of them will have lights in the beginning.

The baseball field will also seat 400 people and will be the home of the Eastern Shore Adult Baseball League. All five ball fields will have masonry dugouts and their own public address buildings.

The two youth soccer fields will be placed in the complex's northeast corner. Four acres in the southeast corner will be left undeveloped until it is determined how they could best be used.

The complex will also include a fast-food concessions stand with a picnic area, a service road for maintenance and emergencies, and walkways throughout.

A governing board — the Wicomico County Athletic Complex Board — has been appointed to determine what should go into the park and how the park should be used. Representatives from the department of recreation and each of the adult softball leagues comprise the 20-member board.

TIMBER. Softball Complex Committee Chairman Don Long, left, and Gary Mackes, director of the Wicomico County Department of Recreation and Parks, familiarize themselves with the tract of land to be cleared for the Wicomico County Athletic Complex. The 41-acre complex is expected to be completed for use in the spring of 1986. (Times Photo By Eric Magill)

TIMBERRRR ...

Salisbury public works employees work to remove the city's 40-foot Christmas tree on the Downtown Plaza from the front of White and Leonard Inc. The large Nordman fir fell during a windstorm shortly before 4:30 p.m. Wednesday when three steel support cables snapped, slightly damaging the store. The tree was to be cut up and removed today. (Times Photo by Tom Leonard) 12/29/83

THE DAILY TIMES

Edward C. White, Publisher and General Manager
Mel Toadvine, Managing Editor
Donald Brown, Advertising Manager Barbara Bradley, Classified Supervisor
James Mixon, Circulation Manager

PAGE 4 Salisbury, Md. Wed., Dec. 28, 1983

Help Available

Each winter, newspapers and television show dramatic pictures of ice-covered firefighters at fire scenes.

Mostly, the photographs were taken in states far above the Mason-Dixon Line. Here on the Shore, temperatures rarely dip to the point where firefighters have to cope with freezing lines.

This past weekend, however, a flow of arctic air gave Eastern Shoremen a taste of Alaskan weather conditions. Many of us were unprepared.

Hundreds of water pipes were broken and firefighters, policemen and municipal crews were hard pressed to cope with calls for help. The sub-freezing temperatures arrived during the Christmas weekend when most municipal crews were home with their families.

On Monday alone, Wicomico County central alarm dispatchers recorded 15 incidents of broken pipes. The situation was repeated in other Eastern Shore counties.

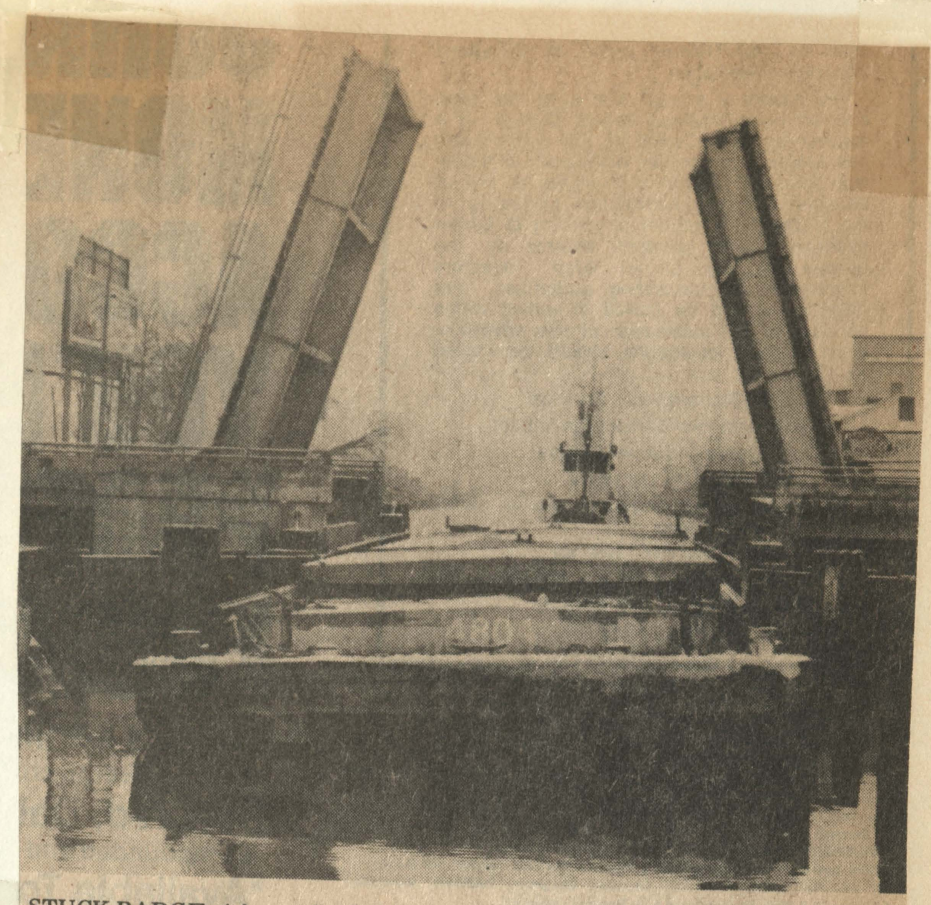
Maintennace crews had to be rounded up to turn off water mains. Police attempted to locate managers of businesses with broken pipes. Firefighters cleaned up the water as best they could.

In the public mind, firefighters put out fires and policemen catch criminals or give traffic tickets. They do other jobs, too. Many of the reports of broken water pipes at businesses are discovered and reported by policemen on routine patrol.

The officer on duty at headquarters will attempt to locate the manager or owner of the business, but many times the officer on patrol has to find him.

Firefighters will stay at a business or home to help clean up the mess.

When we have problems, it is comforting to know that policemen, firefighters and municipal workers will help, even on a special holiday such as Christmas.



STUCK BARGE. A barge loaded with stone is stuck under the Route 50 bridge in Salisbury after running aground around 7 a.m. today. Traffic backed up for more than an hour before city police detoured motorists along West Main and Isabella streets. An afternoon high tide was expected to free the barge. (Times Photo by Brice Stump.)

1/18/84

How To Prevent Frozen Pipes

SALISBURY — The city's public works department is again issuing cold weather hints on how to avoid problems with broken pipes.

Some of the tips may come in helpful this weekend, since the weather service is calling for a return of very low temperatures.

The following four-point checklist should "prevent recurrence of frozen pipes during the remainder of the winter," according to public works director Kenneth M. Haensler:

•Close open crawl spaces and under porch areas where pipes are exposed. This protects pipes from cold winds.

•Insulate pipes in areas likely to go below the freezing temperature.

•Allow a trickle of water to run from faucets during very cold weather, especiallly at night when no water flows in a building or home for many hours. Moving water isn't likely to freeze.

•Shut off water and drain pipes in vacant buildings. The city's water department should be contacted for assistance at 749-4731 or 742-7101.

Citizens who discover broken pipes at night or during a weekend and need help should contact city police.

12/30/83

Cold Weather Precautions Listed

The sudden recent cold snap resulted in literally hundreds of frozen pipes in citizen' homes and business establishments. All of these occurrences were probably avoidable if the owners or occupants had taken reasonable precautions to prevent freezing.

As a public service, the Public Works Department of the City of Salisbury suggests several precautions that will prevent recurrence of frozen pipes during the remainder of the winter:

1. Close in open crawl spaces and under porch areas where pipes are exposed. This will protect the pipes from cold winds.

2. Insulate pipes in areas likely to go below the freezing temperature.

3. Allow a tap to trickle during very cold weather, especially at night when there is no water flow in the building for many hours. Moving water is not likely to freeze and the cost to run a trickle is minor.

4. If building is vacant, call the Water Department for prompt turn-off and then drain the system.

If pipes burst, shut off the main valve right away in order to prevent costly wastage of water. If the main valve cannot be located, call the Water Department at 749-4731 or Public Works Department at 742-7101 during business hours in order to have the water cut off at the meter. During nights and weekends, call the Police Department, which will contact emergency workers promptly.

Many residents and businesses that have pipes which have burst may receive excessive water and sewer bills. Upon application to the Public Works Depatrtment at 742-2289, an adjustment of the sewer bill only will be initiated upon presentation of sufficient evidence that the high bill resulted from burst pipes caused by freezing.

Advertiser 1/1/84

Advertiser 1/25/84

Hold Everything!

When a barge making its way through the Lake Street and Route 50 draw bridges ran aground last week, morning traffic was brought to a standstill. Finally, the tide rose and a tug was able to push the barge through. By that point, police officers had re-routed the traffic and local radio announcers had forewarned many commuters. (News and Advertiser photo)

Shore Naturalist

The Zoo Volunteers: Helping Make Salisbury a Great Place to Live

By ROBERT HEDEEN
Nature Columnist

One of the reasons the Salisbury Zoological Park has been classified repeatedly as an outstanding facility is its educational program conducted mainly by a group of highly dedicated, hard working, and capable volunteers.

Headed by Janice Davis and Lea Lashley, the volunteers participate in such activities as conducting guided tours for groups of visitors and the "Zoo to You" program. This latter activity takes the fascinating story of natural history to nursing homes, libraries, and similar instutions. Prepackaged tours are also provided to schools. Upon request, the classroom teacher will receive a set of color slides depicting most of the exhibits along with a fact sheet containing useful and interesting information about the animals shown. By using the prepackaged tour students are better prepared for a field trip to the zoo and a more meaningful experience.

A recent acquisition of the volunteer group is a headquarters facility located near the administrative office. When I recently visited the zoo I was delighted to listen to a presentation of informative facts concerning natural history being given just outside the new office. Mr. Ed Kraus, a retired Baltimore businessman now living in Snow Hill, was presiding over a table containing a potpourri of attention-attracting items. Included were horns, antlers, bird eggs, a model of a praire dog town, skulls, porcupine quills, a stuffed owl and hawk, and a live parrot.

Keen Interest

Both children and adults listened with keen interest as Kraus explained each of his specimens. They were delighted to learn that an alligator has 80 similar teeth (compared to our 32 of 4 different types), and that the quills of young porcupines do not harden until shortly after they are born. Most did not know that an antler is made of bone and is a living tissue, whereas horns are non-living, being composed of fibrous protein similar to our own nails and hair. The naturalist explained that turtles were reptiles lacking teeth, and this was one reason why they have such a long life span. They do not starve to death as they grow older and their dentition deteriorates, as do some other animals. To illustrate, he called attention to the numerous missing teeth in the skull of what had been a geriatric alligator. Numerous questions were fielded adeptly by the lecturer, and the program was enhanced because the audience could touch and feel the specimens (the live parrot being excepted).

An individual wishing to take part in this important program may contact Ms. Davis or Lashley (or Zoo Director, Peter Crowcroft) at the zoo. Davis stressed that volunteers were needed especially on weekends. She also mentioned the need for all types of "bio-facts," biological specimens to be used in the various programs. Anyone having or finding such an item suitable for exhibitional or instructional purposes is encouraged to donate it to the Zoo Volunteers.

As I left the park I could not help but reflect to myself, "This is the sort of thing that makes Salisbury and Wicomico County such a nice place to live."

Zoo-o-phile Photo: R. Hedeen

Zoo volunteer Ed Kraus of Snow Hill explains the facts of life in his outddor classroom at the Salisbury Zoo.

Restrictions On Parking Removed

9/21/86

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved removing parking restrictions on Light Street by the Newton-Camden Playground from dusk to dawn.

The council approved the removal of the parking restrictions following approval by the Newton-Camden Association. The removal of the 24-hour parking restriction signs, adjacent to the Newton-Camden playground, was first requested by Sam Street of Light Street.

No Parking Signs To Be Posted On Street

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved the posting of no parking signs on the east side of Huston Terrace to eliminate problems with ambulances gaining entry to Peninsula General Hospital Medical Center.

According to Public Works Director Thomas D. Plotts, PGHMC officials requested the elimination of parking on the east side of Huston Terrace between the entrance and exit of the hospi-

too much congestion when ambulances make a right turn from Locust Street onto Huston Terrace.

According to Plotts, parking in the vicinity will be reduced by two spaces as a result of the change.

Grass Removal Program Gets OK

SALISBURY — The City of Salisbury approved a new citywide sidewalk grass and weed removal program aimed at providing assistance to property owners in the removal of weed and grass from their sidewalks.

A prioritized list of areas needing attention will be compiled by the city Bureau of Inspections and the sidewalks will be sprayed with a "non-discriminant herbicide" by additional manpower hired specifically for this purpose.

The bureau will still respond to complaints but is asking citizens and residents to refrain from calling the bureau requesting certain streets be done first. According to the bureau, the new program is a "more responsive attack on the probiem than the previous notification and en-

'No Parking' Signs Get Council's OK

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved placing and enforcing "no parking' signs on the west side of West Locust Street from Waverly Drive to Newton Street.

Residents complained to the city that cars parked on the 21-foot wide street was posing congestion problems that could eliminate emergency and regular access.

8/12/86

City Annexation Bid Approved

9/11/86

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved the annexation of 3.8 acres on Beaglin Park Drive known as the Rufus Johnson property.

The land is being proposed for development, according to City Public Works Director Thomas D. Plotts, as a planned residential district of single-family housing. He said 17 to 20 homes are being ojected, each about 2,000 square t at a cost between $125,000 to 0,000.

Council OKs Parking Plan

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved imposing alternate side of the street parking for one day on a portion of Delaware Avenue south of Isabella Street.

City Public Works Director Thomas Plotts said his office has received a number of requests for additional street cleaning of a portion of Delaware Avenue. The council approved his recommendation to prohibit parking on one side of Delaware Avenue in the morning from 8 a.m. to noon and the other side in the afternoon from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on a particular day.

Plotts said his office seems to have the total support of the neighborhood.

12/26/86

Digging In

Ground breaking for Beaglin Park Plaza, Salisbury's first luxury office condominium project was held recently. Located at the intersection of Beaglin Park Drive, Rt. 50 and Mt. Hermon Rd. the 38,000 square foot office complex will include 4 separate buildings in a park or campus-like setting. The site will be heavily landscaped to create the atmosphere of a college campus. The first building is scheduled for completion by April 1987.

Pictured from left to right are Mike, Sandra, Jeff and Tony Liberto; Norm Conway; Paul Martin; Henry Parker; Bil Hill; Bill Martin; Bob Farrell; Charles Bowen; and Albert K. Broughton.

Play Gym Is Gift Of Shore Kids

SALISBURY — People In Action, formerly the women's component of the Salisbury Jaycees, recently presented "a gift from the children of the Lower Shore to the children of the Lower Shore," according to Carolee Meagher, project chairman of the group which raised $3,000 to buy playground equipment.

The new equipment was installed on Picnic Island at the Salisbury Zoological Park and is modular in design. This means it can be added to in the future, and PIA is encouraging any other groups who wish to contribute to the effort by expanding the set to do so.

Funds for the project came from the proceeds of PIA's "Buckle-Up-Babe" car seat loaner program and from past baby photo contests sponsored by the group.

"The money basically came from the children of the Shore — from projects involving them. That's why we call it a gift from children to children," Meagher said.

She explained that Picnic Island was chosen for the site of the new equipment so children would have an alternative to playing close to the water, and for the convenience of picnickers, so their children would not have to leave the picnic area to reach the other playground area in the park.

Meagher paid special thanks for help on the project to Dr. Keith Connor, Salisbury State College; the C & P Telephone Pioneers; Sommers & Van Fossen, architects; Gary Mackes of the Wicomico County Department of Recreation and Parks, and to the city of Salisbury Public Works Department.

PEOPLE AND KIDS IN ACTION. People In Action recently donated a new piece of playground equipment to the city of Salisbury. Pictured at the offical presentation of the set are, left to right: Vicki Walter, community action director, People In Action, Carolee Meagher, project chairman, W. Paul Martin Jr., mayor of Salisbury, Linda Belet, president of the group. Chris Emge and Kevin Meagher give the slide a test ride. (Times Photo)

9/14/86

Salisbury To Collect Leaves

10/9/86

SALISBURY — The City of Salisbury will be collecting leaves bi-weekly during regular trash pick-up and on Wednesdays beginning Oct. 15.

Leaves to be picked up by the city must be placed in garbage cans, baskets or heavy duty plastic bags. Only leaves and pine needles will be picked up on Wednesdays through the month of December.

Raking leaves into the street, according to the City Code is unlawful and creates a driving hazard and the clogging of storm drain systems. According to a city press release, cooperation is requested and police enforcement will be in effect.

Salisbury Denied Waiver Request

SALISBURY — The Wicomico County Council voted 4 to 1 not to grant the City of Salisbury a waiver from a health department public hearing required if the city deposits wastewater treatment plant sludge on a county farm.

Newell "Chip" Messick of the city public works department told the county that the city wanted to deposit the sludge on a farm owned by Virginia Phillips in the Poplar Hill Correctional Center area. He said the city would have to wait a month and a half to obtain a permit for the sludge application if it had to go through with the public hearing.

Council members, excluding Betty K. Gardner, voted against the waiver and for a public hearing because of complaints they said the county received concerning a similar deposit the city made on the Old Homestead Dairy Farm on Nanticoke Road. Messick said pasture grass would be planted on the new property, adding, that only two homes were in the vicinity, each about 1,500 to 2,000 feet from the deposit site.

10/22/86

Playground Construction

Salisbury City employees James Brown, left, and Boyd Niblett construct a new piece of playground equipment in the Salisbury City Park. The 3-day project is one of several being built around town. (Times Photo by Larry Alpaugh)

WALTER C. ANDERSON
CITY SOLICITOR
130 East Main Street
Salisbury, Maryland

NOTICE OF ANNEXATION TO THE CITY OF SALISBURY OF SARATOGA STREET AREA ANNEXATION

All contiguous to and binding upon the Southeasterly corporate limits of the City of Salisbury.

NOTICE is hereby given by the Council of the City of Salisbury, that on January 9, 1984, Resolution No. 257 was introduced and read at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Salisbury proposing and recommending that the boundaries of the City of Salisbury be changed so as to annex to and include within the boundaries of the City of Salisbury, all that certain area of land therein identified as "Saratoga Street Annexation", hereinafter more fully described, together with the persons residing therein and their property, generally subject to all provisions of the Charter of Salisbury and all ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations thereof, and in particular providing that upon effectiveness of the annexation of the area therein proposed and recommended, all property is said area shall be subject to all provisions of the Charter of Salisbury and all Ordinances, Resolutions, Rules, and Regulations of the City of Salisbury in effect on said date shall apply to said area to the same extent as to all other areas within the present corporate limits, except as specified in said resolution hereinafter set forth.

Notice is further hereby given by the Council of the City of Salisbury that the Council will hold a public haring on said Resolution and the said annexation therein proposed and recommended on:

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1984
AT 8:05 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY-COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
SALISBURY, MARYLAND

and all interested persons are invited to attend such public hearing and present their views.

The proposed area and conditions of annexation are as follows:

AREA

A resolution of the Council of the City of Salisbury proposing annexation to the City of Salisbury of a certain area of land situated contiguous to and binding upon the easterly corporate limits of the City of Salisbury popularly known as the Saratoga Street Area Annexation beginning for the same at a point on the coporate limit at the south side of U.S. Route 50 X 1,208,371.83 Y 198,272.11; thence by and with the corporate limit the following four courses; (1) south eighty-nine degrees thirty-four minutes, thirty-nine seconds west (S 89 degrees 34' 39'' W) nine hundred and sixteen decimal four, two (916.42) feet X 1, 207,455.44 Y 198,265.35; (2) South eighty-three degrees four minures eighteen seconds west (S 83 degrees 04' 18'' W) Forty-four decimal five four (44.54) feet X 1,207,411.23 Y 198,259.98; (3) north twenty-six degrees twenty-five minutes forty-seven seconds east (N 26 degrees 25' 47'' E) nine hundred and ninety-two decimal five, five (992.55) feet X 1,207,853.01 Y 199,148.78; (4) south eighty-eight degrees fifty-seven minutes zero seconds east (S 88 degrees 57' 00''E) five hundred and eleven decimal nine, one (511.91) feet to the point of intersection of the corporate limit with the easterly right of way line of Centenary Drive X 1,208,364.83 Y 199,139.40; thence by and with said right of way line and in a line extended of same south zero degrees twenty-seven minutes, forty five seconds east (S 0 degrees 27' 45'' E) eight hundred and sixty seven decimal three, two (867.32) feet to the point of beginning containing 14.78 acres. Bearings and coordinates are referenced to the Maryland State Coordinate System.

CONDITIONS OF ANNEXATION

A. SERVICES AND TAXES

1. The City will assess no taxes and will provide no services until the first normal taxing period following the placing of water and sewer mains to adequately serve the area. At this time, all normal services will be provided.

B. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. All EXISTING DEVELOPMENT will be given five (5) years following availability of utility services to tie into City systems. At the expiration of this period of time, front-foot assessments will be charged and connection required, in accordance with current City Policy.

2. NEWLY DEVELOPING PROPERTIES will be required to use any available City system at the time of construction. Front-foot assessments and tapping charges will be payable at the time of application for service.

3. WATER AND SEWER and other improvements and services will be available to newly annexed areas in accordance with prevailing City Policy.

*4. ZONING will be consistent with the County Comprehensive Land Use Plan in effect at the time of annexation. No zoning changes may be made during the five year period following annexation unless approved by the governing bodies of the City and County.

Notice is further hereby given by the Council of The City of Salisbury that following such public hearing, the Council of The City of Salisbury is empowered by law to enact said Resolution, and if so enacted, the said Resolution provides that it shall take effect upon expiration of forty-five (45) days following its passage unless within such period, a petition for referendum is filed meeting the requirements of Article 23A of the Annotated Code of Maryland, 1973 Replacement Volume, as amended.

A copy of said Resolution is posted and may be examined at the City-Council Office Building, Salisbury, Maryland.

BY ORDER OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
SALISBURY, MARYLAND
Patrick J. Fennell, Executive Secretary

1/12, 19, 26, 2/2

$6 Million Salisbury Facility

Health Care Complex Planned

1/10/84

By RHONDA GRAHAM
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The owners of the Salisbury and Berlin Nursing homes have released plans for the development of a major new health care complex here costing more than $6 million.

The Salisbury Regional Health Center, according to a spokesman for the Dennis Nooner and Irving Bainum families, will be the largest non-hospital-based medical complex in the state.

The complex, as described in a press release, will consist of six new health care services — a home health agency, medical labor pool, immediate medical treatement center, ambulatory surgical clinic, retirement apartments and professional office buildings.

ACCORDING to Dennis Nooner Jr., the center will be built adjacent to the Salisbury Nursing Home on 12½ acres of land on Route 50.

"We hope to have the ground breaking within 30 days and the entire project should be completed and in operation within two years," Nooner said.

Blue Shield and Blue Cross has said a certificate of need application must be filed with the state before a contract could be worked out for the ambulatory surgical clinic.

Peninsula General Hospital Medical Center, which wants to build its own ambulatory surgical center, protested the waiver of the application by a state health commission for the Bainum and Nooner surgical clinic last summer.

Nooner said it will not be necessary to file the certificate of need application for the other services planned for the center.

THE IMMEDIATE medical treatment clinic will be open 12 hours daily and provide minor medical treatment on a walk-in basis.

The plans also include 100 retirement apartments for the elderly and retired persons. Nooner says the apartments can be rented or brought as condominiums.

Two large modern office buildings will be built for area physcians — one will be for rent and leasing, and the other to be divided and sold as condominiums, Nooner said.

Saratoga St. Annexation Sought

1/10/84

SALISBURY — A resolution calling for the annexation of property along Saratoga Street has been given initial approval by the Salisbury City Council.

The Monday night proposal would make about a dozen property owners between East Main Street and Centenary Drive city residents, reducing their water and sewer bills substantially. The properties are already served by utilities under an old agreement that makes their bills higher than other city residents, according to public works Director Kenneth M. Haensler.

The final vote on the annexation resolution is slated for Feb. 27. Nearly all of the property owners who would be affected signed a petition in support of the annexation.

Camden Parking Ban Set

SALISBURY — "No Parking" signs will soon be going up on a section of the 400 block of Camden Avenue near the Newton Street intersection.

The signs are part of an experiment being conducted by the public works department to see if the parking ban will curtail complaints from homeowners in the Camden-Newton neighborhood association.

The city council approved the placement of the signs for a sixth-month period. Arlois Price, a resident of the area, said the removal of cars on the west side of the street would reduce noise, increase police patrol visibility and prevent clashes with renters. It would also enable the city to perform better maintenance in street cleaning and upkeep of sidewalks, she said.

Drainage Solution Sought

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council has agreed to accept from a developer a gift of land off South Division Street in return for the public works department's assurance that it can solve a drainage problem.

Richard Allen wants to subdivide some property also bounded by Power, Wayne and Milford streets, according to public works officials.

Allen has also offered the city 6/10ths of an acre if the city will construct a storm water detention pond to collect water runoff from the property. City officials accepted the offer, since they envision the need for land to build a new water tower.

Intersection Termed Safe

1/4/84

SALISBURY — The final report on accident frequency at Beaglin Park Drive and Glen Avenue here is in and the statistics don't reveal a major problem.

Wicomico County roads engineer C. Kirk Banks said a Maryland State Police report showed only three major traffic accidents had occurred at the intersection since 1981.

Banks was ordered to look into accident frequency after an area resident told the county council the intersection was considered dangerous.

Airport To Get Sewer Service; Clearing Way For Growth

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — By year's end, Wicomico County's airport should be hooked up to a sewer service provided by the City of Salisbury, clearing the way for commercial growth that is expected to give an added boost to the local economy.

The city and county governments have agreed verbally to extend a special sewer main from Shoppers' World at Route 50 and Tilghman Road to the airport about two miles away.

No other hookups along the line will be allowed. Residential subdivisions like Kilburnie Estates near the proposed line will not be forced to tie into the system.

If no obstacles crop up in the next several months, county officials are hopeful the bidding on construction can start by late spring and installation can be completed by the fall.

The project carries a price tag of $1 million, but should reap benefits many times over. The type of system being proposed is considered the most cost-efficient design and should be acceptable to state officials, who still must give their final approval to the plan.

WICOMICO County's Administrative Director Matthew E. Creamer calls the proposed new service "a whole new era of economic development as it relates to the airport. We're very excited about it."

Edward J. Kremer, chairman of the airport commission, said utility service "opens up a whole lot of possibilities. For several years now, we've been sort of treading water."

The commission has delayed recommending construction of additional small aircraft and commercial hangars even though they are in demand because the airport has been unable to provide the necessary waste disposal facilities.

"We were just in no position to handle these things. You have to have it all there — roads, utilities, cleared land — if you hope to bring in new businesses. With this new system, that should all change," Kremer said.

Both men have been leaders in a lobbying effort directed at local elected officials who have been asked to endorse the utility extension plan so development of an "Airport Business Center" can move ahead.

The center will be similar in scope to the light industry and business parks in California's "Silicon Valley." The proposed sewer line would be unable to handle an industry that puts a heavy demand on the system, so neighbors of the airport should not fear major factory growth in the area, Kremer said.

The airport's current water source is a well system which officials say is more than adequate for future growth. Businesses at the airport employ over 400 people, one of the largest private industry payrolls in the county.

The commission has turned down request after request from many types of airport-related business growth proposals because existing facilities are unable to handle a larger demand for waste disposal, Kremer said.

CREAMER said if a municipal utility line had been available three years ago, several new businesses which wanted to establish new locations at the airport could have been lured to the community.

Robert L. Kiley, director of Salisbury-Wicomico Economic Development, calls the utility line which will allow development of the center an extremely valuable tool for economic development.

Kiley said "pieces are coming together" after years of planning and recruiting new businesses that have expressed heavy interest in ready access to commercial property overlooking an airport. Kiley believes America will become increasingly more dependent on air travel. Since Salisbury is viewed as a rural community only a short distance from a half-dozen major metropolitan areas, an airport with good, modern facilities has "great potential," according to Kiley.

The Henson commuter line which recently became part of the Piedmont Airlines system is another major factor in the airport's long range growth possibilities, Kiley said. Because Piedmont has a wide range of connections to other cities, Salisbury could become a popular mid-size community for expanded growth, he said.

Kiley envisions airline maintenance and repair businesses and firms in related fields as possible clients for the center because space they need is too costly at major airports. And he also thinks Henson-Piedmont can aid SWED in identifying businesses which are heavy freight users looking for new markets.

Kremer said the airport commission will stick to its conservative long-range master plan. The commission, Kremer said, wants to maintain its reputation as a good neighbor to its rural and residential counterparts. Airport activity here will likely increase but not escalate to a level which annoys suburban subdivisions of major cities, he said.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed bids for the construction of a sewerage system to serve Salisbury-Wicomico County Regional Airport will be received by the Wicomico County Airport Commission at the County Council, Government Office Building, Salisbury, Maryland 21801, until 10:00 A.M. local time on February 27, 1984 and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud.

Work consists of constructing and installing approximately 7,180 linear feet of 6 inch through 10 inch gravity sewer, approximately 14,750 linear feet of 4 inch and 6 inch sewage force main, two (2) submerisible type sewage pumping stations and other related appurtenant items.

Contract documents may be examined at the offices of the Wicomico County Airport Commission; the office of George, Miles and Buhr, 724 East Main Street, Salisbury, Maryland; the plan rooms of F.W. Dodge Corporation in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Towson, Maryland.

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of George, Miles and Buhr, 724 East Main Street, Salisbury, Maryland 21801, upon payment of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) for each set, non-refundable. Checks made payable to George, Miles and Buhr.

No Bidder may withdraw his bid within sixty (60) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

The right reserved as the interests of Wicomico County Airport Commission may appear, to reject any and all bids, to waive any informalities in bids received, and to accept or reject any items of any bid.

A pre-bid meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M., local time, February 16, 1984, at the Office of the Wicomico County Council, Government Office Building, Salisbury, Maryland, to allow Contractors an opportunity to obtain information on the project from the Consulting Engineer and the Owner.

Wicomico County Airport Commission
By Matthew E. Creamer
Secretary

1/30, 2/10

Sewage Treatment Plans In Final Stages

1/15/84

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Salisbury officials are hoping to start work shortly on the final plans for $4½ million worth of improvements to the municipal sewage treatment plant to reduce the amount of chemicals which flow into the Wicomico River.

The city's public works department has already received word that state officials support preliminary designs to modify the plant. The city's proposals call for the removal of most of the phosphorus, chlorine and sewer grit that ends up in the river and eventually the Chesapeake Bay. By the spring of 1985, work on plant modifications should be under way, city officials predict.

The addition of treatment steps at the plant comes just as attention is being focused on the pollution threatening the bay and its delicate ecology.

Most of the cost for improvements will be paid for by grants provided by the federal and state governments, if the final plans win state approval by the fall. If they meet that deadline, city officials only have to fund — through the sale of municipal bonds — 12½ percent of the project's final cost.

WHAT EFFECT THE changes will have on individual water and sewer bills is still unclear right now, although city officials have been warning for several years that the time is coming when utility charges will go up after improvements are made.

Meanwhile, as the city grapples with upgrading its sewer plant, Wicomico County is getting ready to add a major sewer line, connecting the airport to the city sewer system.

Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr. said the new airport sewer main should have little effect on the sewer plant's ability to handle additional waste which will accompany commercial growth.

"There's not going to be the type of businesses out there that will have that much of an impact on our capacity," Martin said. "As far as hydraulics go, we're in good shape."

The picture was not so bright when Martin became mayor nearly two years ago. At that time, he faced a little-publicized management crisis involving sewer plant operations.

THE SEWER PLANT was having difficulty handling the type of waste coming from food processing plants in the city such as Perdue, Purity Bacon and Campbell Soup Co. The influx of grease-laden industrial waste for years had been causing severe maintenance problems, which subsequently caused odors more obnoxious than should have been expected.

After taking office, Martin lobbied behind the scenes to get those companies to comply with city waste disposal regulations. Martin said after many meetings with high-ranking officials on the corporate level, he was able to convince the businessmen they should install equipment for treating industrial waste before it ends up in the municipal lines.

Martin told the company officials their commitment to cooperate was imperative if the city sewer system is to last another 30 years, according to engineers' prediction.

THE MOST RECENT negotiations have been with Campbell Soup. Plant manager Kenneth R. Maurer said his company is "putting a lot of money into redesigning our waste treatment facilities at our plant." Maurer said he hopes the new system will be operating and acceptable to city engineers by early April.

"We've come a long way, I'm happy to say. All of them are working with us. We've made a lot of progress," the mayor said. Martin said taxpayers should be satisfied the businesses are complying with local ordinances.

Discussions were particularly delicate because of the number of jobs those industries provide in the local economy. Martin said his lobbying efforts had to be firm but also flexible.

"It was crucial, there's no denying it," Martin said. "The whole future of the city rested with how we worked this out."

Plan To Save Salisbury Bridge May Be Too Late

2/3/84

By MIKE MEISE
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Jim Agnew has a plan to turn a downtown eyesore into an eye-catcher — but he may be too late.

He wants to build a circular pool with a flowing fountain surrounded by a flower bed for geraniums in the middle of the old Camden bridge.

But, barring a change in City Hall plans, which is unlikely, James K. Agnew's hopes of beautifying the ancient bridge are up the creek.

At City Hall, officials say Agnew's plan is out of the question.

Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr. said the city is committed to demolish the bridge which once carried all Route 13 traffic before Salisbury Boulevard was built many years ago.

In its place, the city will build a pedestrian walkway, similar to the one over the Wicomico River at Riverwalk Park. The old span is no longer needed for vehicular traffic because of the change in the complexion of downtown Salisbury.

The state has committed $140,000 for the demolition, and the work is expected to be done this summer. Relocation of utility lines in the area is expected to start within a few weeks.

"WHAT MR. Agnew is proposing is far more than we can afford," said Martin. "The city council decided months ago to proceed with demolition."

One estimate from Kenneth M. Haensler, director of the city's department of public works, put the cost of Agnew's proposal in the neighborhood of $200,000. Agnew disputed that figure.

To carry out the Agnew plan would mean the city would have to spend vast sums to virtually rebuild what's left of the deteriorating old bridge.

Nobody in City Hall can pinpoint the age of the bridge. Agnew is 75 years old and remembers the bridge from his youth. Someone in City Hall guessed it was built in the 1930s, probably earlier.

Before the superstructure with its massive weights used in the draw span operation was removed years ago, the bridge was a haven for indiscreet, pesky pigeons. And before the draw was sealed, oil barges passed through en route to oil terminals which once existed in the prong of the river bordering South Salisbury Boulevard.

AGNEW, THE man chiefly responsible for the erection of the 33-foot-high Veterans Mounument at North Salisbury Boulevard and Priscilla Street back in the 1950s, has been quietly drumming up support for his bridge plan in recent weeks.

He hoped to see the fountain, with a statue, built in the center of the old bridge. It would have been similar, in some ways, to a pool and fountain he built in his yard in the 1000 block of East Church Street, surrounded by flowers. It's considered a neighborhood showpiece.

His plan also included a spotlight, painting the old bridge stone gray, walkways on both sides of the 7½-foot-wide pool and flower bed, decorative wooden railings, and possibly a green artificial turf covering for the roadbed.

Agnew, a retired employee of a local soft drink bottling firm, said he and his daughter, Harriet Hammond of near Willards, would pay for the pool. He estimated this would cost $2,000 to $3,000.

City Toughens Refuse Collection Rules

2/1/84

City of Salisbury officials have been concerned over recent years about increased litter and unsanitary conditions resulting from the use of plastic bags and other non-durable containers for garbage and household refuse. These bags, boxes, etc. which are easily ripped and frequently broken into by animals, lead to the littering of streets and yards. Sharp objects in the bags have caused numerous injuries to the sanitation workers who handle them. In the interest of keeping Salisbury clean and improving the quality of life in our City, new regulations have been adopted by the Mayor and City Council.

Briefly, the new laws and regulations prohibit the use of plastic bags as containers for household garbage and refuse. Residents must now use "metal or other damage-resistant, non-corrodible, non-absorbent, non-leakable containers with tight covers, not to exceed 20 gallon capaicty per container." Plastic bags of no less than 1.85 mil thickness may be used for grass trimmings, leaves and other outdoor refuse. The new regulations also provide that containers may be placed at the curb for collection after 8 p.m. on the evening preceding scheduled collection and empty containers must be removed by 9 p.m. of the collection day. All other existing regulations remain in effect, including the use of returnable wooden baskets for leaves and grass, use of half-filed metal containers for ashes and the limit os six (6) containers per dweling unit. Tree limbs left for collection must be no longer than 4 feet and must be tied in bundles. All contianers must be kept clean.

Violations of the laws and regulations will now be treated as municipal "infractions" rather than "misdemeanors". An infraction is a civil offense and a misdemeanor is a criminal offense. Violators will be issued warnings. If a warning is ignored, a citation will be issued by designated employees of the Public Works Department. The citation will impose a fine of $25 for a first offense and $50 for repeat offences. The fine must be paid within 20 days. If the violator so choses, he may elect to stand trail in District Court. Failure to do either of the above will result in issuance of a formal "Notice of Infraction" which doubles the fine if not paid within 15 days. If not paid within 35 days, the vilator will be summoned to court. The Public Works Director may waive a fine only if the citation was issued in error or if the violation has been corrected. Enforcement is scheduled to begin on June 1, 1984, which is the effective date of th Infraction Ordinance.

As a result of these changes, City officials look forward to great improvement in the appearnace and cleanliness of Salisbury through the cooperation or residents and property owners.

Letters To The Editor

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This entire plan is nothing short of a tax upon public educators. The current political leadership intends to use our money to fund their priorities.

We, as educators, do not intened to stand for this reduction in retirment benefits to fund projects the governor deems politically popular.

C. Andrew Buchanan
Faculty Representative
Parkside High School, Salisbury

More On Trash Bags

Editor Of The Times:

Please let me second the Letter to the Editor from Gladys Bradley on Feb. 3.

To say that everyone in Salisbury should put his or her garbage in cans instead of plastic bags in the interest of better sanitation is nonsense.

Nothing is as filthy, dirty, smelly or germ-ridden as a garbage can, especially in our hot, humid summer months.

You may argue that stray dogs, cats and other furry beasties tear open a plastic bag. I can tell you from sad experience they also tip over cans and take off lids. No power on earth can prevent a determined raccoon from getting into a garbage can if he puts his mind to it.

If this is the problem, I recommend pouring a little ammonia or pine-scented cleaner into the bag before closing it. All small four-footed fuzzy creatures will leave your leftovers intact.

Mrs. Bradley has a good point also in saying that carrying garbage cans back and forth is a great hardship on elderly and handicapped residents. Even pushing a garbage can cart is a painful, if not impossible task.

To further defend the use of plastic bags — what a blessing it has been in the past few years to see fewer cans rolling across our streets on windy days. As a traffic hazard they rank not far below drunken drivers.

No, we do not want to go back to the old-fashioned garbage cans.

Jean A. Marshall
Salisbury

Letters To The Editor

3/22/84

Garbage Law Opposed

Editor Of The Times:

I have been hearing a lot of discussion, particularly among our senior citizens, about Salisbury's new garbage ordinance.

They believe that the city gave no consideration to the problems this new requirement may present to them.

The city states that garbage in the streets has become a real problem. Their position seems to be that most of the problem stems from the use of plastic garbage bags and the fact that roaming dogs can tear them open. So, everyone, irregardless of any physical handicap, must place their garbage in some type of trash can, either metal or plastic. I presume that the logic is that this will reduce the damage from animal involvement.

First, the city has laws concerning dogs and dog control. If the city is unable to enforce its rules concerning animal control, then how will it enforce its "garbage" rules? From my observations in the last two weeks, I have seen more trash cans turned over and pillaged by dogs than I have seen properly sealed trash bags torn open.

Garbage cans tend to become soiled and unsightly. They only produce the odors which invite an animal to investigatge. Next, the city will need a trash container cleaning ordinance. Garbage bags are a one-shot usage which don't get to ferment during the hot weeks of summer. Yes, they can be ripped to shreds by a dog or cat just as a can is capable of being overturned.

When challenged on the point of trash can versus bag from the standpoint of physical handicaps, the official response is that the can need not be a heavy metal container but can be a light plastic one. We will skip the fact that many elderly have medical problems which have reduced their ability to move awkward cans which require the use of two good hands and arms. Heavy metal trash cans, after dumping, can be seen on any really windy day blowing merrily down the street.

Just think how far a light metal or plastic can will fly. As a driver of an automobile, I will look first to the city of Salisbury for financial relief should I become invovled with one of these flying cans. I do hope the city will accept responsibility for the results of its legislative actions.

The point I wish to make is that any trash container, can or bag, improperly used will invited garbage problems. Rather than legislate the use of cans, metal or plastic, the city needs to create and delegate the authority to fine those persons allowing these bad trash problems to arise. Also, they might lend more support to the humane society so that animal control could truly control.

Lawrence C. Robinson
Salisbury

Colorful Old Neighborhoo

Neighborhood names are often colorful and descriptive words for a part of a city, town or region. But sometimes they become obscured by passing time, and eventually are even forgotten by newer generations.

Most of today's younger — and even some middle-aged — adults could not pinpoint the locations of some older neighborhoods in Salisbury.

This suggestion comes from Charles T. Truitt, an early editor of this newspaper back in the 1920s. He's now a retired businessman but still busy with writing. His two latest books, *Breadbasket of the Revolution*, the history of Delmarva in the Revolutionary War, and *Historic Salisbury, Updated* are major contributions to area history.

Truitt sent along a list of forgotten and half-forgotten neighborhood names in Salisbury. Here are some of them:

"Cuba," a small group of rental houses between Church Street and the east prong of the Wicomico River. They disappeared with the building of Route 13, and with that, the name "Cuba" as a part of Salisbury was gone.

Then there was "California," between Fitzwater and West Main Streets, and "Jersey," between the north prong of the river and Delaware Avenue. Both are now largely forgotten as distinct areas of the city.

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Similarly, there was East Salisbury, north of Main Street and east of the railroad tracks. Both east and south Salisbury regions are now greatly expanded areas of the city.

One name which still holds is "Newtown," thanks to the historically minded who are refurbishing homes, some of them fine examples of earlier architecture, bordering North Division Street, eastward to the tracks.

Then there's still "Camden." Though surely losing its identity, it is both sides of Camden Avenue from the east prong to about what is now North Boulevard. Many fine homes are still there, some restored or maintained to their earlier elegance.

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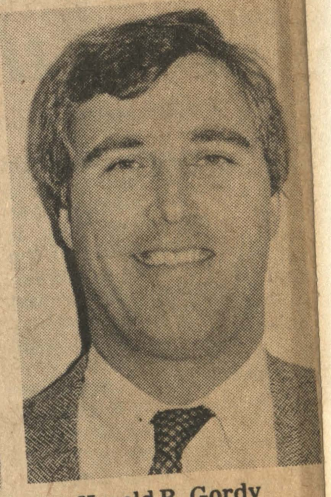
A6 THE DAILY TIMES Salisbury, Md. Sun., April 1, 1984

Jo Ann Ellis



Harold B. Gordy

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Truitt's list went on to mention "Snuff Hill," now about forgotten. It was an area of tenant houses between Camden Avenue and the river. Some houses are still there.

To that, we can add the name of a place called "Rabbit Gnaw," an area where the Salvation Army complex, east of Eastern Shore Drive, now stands.

"GLEN Haven" is still a residential area, west of Long Avenue opposite Wicomico Senior High School. As a neighborhood, though, the name is falling into disuse.

And, as Truitt suggests, there's "The Oaks," a development just north of Isabella Street and west of North Division Street to the railroad. As a neighborhood name, it may well be on the way to oblivion.

And, there's "Clairmont Village," between South Boulevard and College Avenue, a fashionable residential area carved out of a fruit orchard by the late E. Wilson Booth, an architect and developer.

Truitt says there are about 50 neighborhoods of more recent origin — residential subdivisions — which may or may not survive the test of time. Space precludes a complete listing, but look around. They are there.

IT'S INTERESTING to recall that the earlier neighborhood names in Salisbury — Camden, South Salisbury, East Salisbury, Newtown, Cuba, California and Jersey, were once part and parcel of the Salisbury Fire Department's designation for specific alarms.

In those days, a great bell in the tower of the firehouse on South Division Street tolled the alarms. "Four-four," four bells followed by four more, spread the word of a downtown alarm. It was a call that sounded the urgent need for all available resources of the volunteer fire department. Responding volunteers could go

Scratch Pad

By Dick Moore

Athletic Complex To Get Sewer Service Hookup

2/15/84

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Salisbury State College is eying expansion of Seagull Stadium and it needs sewer service for the athletic complex.

The state has offered to reimburse the City of Salisbury for the existing utility line off Bateman Street which was installed 10 years ago. After some debate over the worth of the service, the council eventually voted to accept a $14,633 payment for hooking up the service during its Monday night session.

But before the final vote was taken, council members rehashed a topic that had drawn local elected officials into heated debates with the state's top legal officials.

The city had once coveted the Bateman Street property as a potential industrial park development. The city went to great financial lengths to provide the property with access to industrial-strength water and sewer utility lines.

But when the state purchased the land in the 1970s, it ordered the city to provide the athletic complex with water service and then said it would only pay the city $12,500. The city complained bitterly that it would not be getting a fair market value for its substantial investment.

As council President Norman H. Conway noted Monday night, the complaints did little good. The state claimed it had "eminent domain" in the previous case, which made all arguments moot.

NOW SSC is looking to build a modest locker room facility for half-time pep talks and an accompanying restroom facility on stadium grounds later this year. The state has provided the college with $14,633 in funds to pay for hooking into the sewer line. That was supposedly the price of the line when it was originally installed over a decade ago.

For a few minutes, Councilman Samuel W. Seidel argued against accepting the state's latest offer, saying he thought the city should get as much as double the amount after hearing a report from public works officials. Other council members reminded him of the state's case in the last confrontation. Seidel eventually joined the others in a unanimous vote to accept the state's offer to pay the $14,633 for the sewer line.

One public works official warned that if the city challenged the state's offer, the city could end up settling for considerably less for the line.

SSC spokesman Richard Yobst said the college plans to spend $70,000 on the new facilities, which should be ready by the fall. He said the plans have been part of SSC's long-range capital improvements budget for several years. The money is slated to come from student activity fees, Yobst said.

Plans For Sewer Plant Unveiled

2/15/84

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council has approved a proposal to expand a study of improvements to its sewage treatment plant which could eventually include Wicomico County as a partner which would help pay for substantial modifications to the facility.

The vote Monday night on the proposal was 3-to-1. Councilman Samuel W. Seidel cast the lone dissenting vote.

The council was told Monday night the county is under heavy pressure by state and federal health officials to provide septic tank waste haulers with an acceptable way of disposing of that type of waste.

A plan that has been the object of many behind-the-scenes negotiations recently between Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr. and the Wicomico County Council finally surfaced publicly at the council session.

The county has expressed interest privately in joining forces with the city in an expansion and upgrading of the city's sewage treatment plant.

The county has reportedly said it would be willing to pay for a "pre-treatment" facility, where septic tank waste could be processed before it is then pumped into the city's sewage treatment plant.

Development of such a proposal would save the county several million dollars because the local government would not have to build a separate sewer treatment plant.

THE CITY would benefit because federal and state grants are available for other improvements the city public works department believes are necessary to further upgrade the plant.

The vote Monday means a consultant will be authorized to develop suggestions on how to set up a "pre-treatment" plant. The projected cost of the study is $21,000, which will be paid for by the federal, state and county governments.

Seidel said he objected to the proposal because it eliminated a bargaining tool he believes the city needs to gain future tax differential concessions for city taxpayers from the county government.

Council President Norman H. Conway told Seidel other benefits in such a joint venture involving the city and county would probably outweight any potential tax break the county government might want to grant city taxpayers should the sewer disposal study can be developed as projected.

Although plans are still sketchy, city public works officials said it appears a "pre-treatment" facility may cost as little as $350,000. The county has apparently expressed a willingness to help the city with operating costs associated with an expanded sewage treatment plant.

The county government currently allows septic tank waste haulers to dump their cargo in a northeastern section of the county known as the Blackwater Lagoon. It is believed some haulers dump the material in other locations, also. The state health department has told the county that all open dumping must cease.

Septic tank waste is known to be a difficult material to process and dispose of, most government officials acknowledge.

City Law Clarification Sought

2/15/84

SALISBURY — A proposed ordinance was introduced by the Salisbury City Council Monday night which would reaffirm the city's domain in passing and enforcing local municipal laws within city limits.

The measure was suggested by several council members who were concerned about a 1981 state supreme court ruling in which it was decided that in some instances, county laws could have jurisdiction over city and town government laws.

City attorney Walter C. Anderson called the ordinance a "housekeeping" measure which specifically spells out the city's charter and state law-granted rights when it comes to enforcing laws within the city limits. The clarifications in definitions were encouraged by the Maryland Municipal League. A final vote is expected in two weeks.

Ethics Amendment In Works

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council is considering an amendment to its local ethics code which would require all city employees to adhere to the job performance guidelines.

The ordinance is being recommended by the mayor's office at the suggestion of the federal government. City executive secretary Patrick J. Fennell said Monday night the change is needed so the city can continue to qualify for certain federal block grant programs.

Fennell said a federal agency suggested the expansion so there will be no future questions about conflicts of interest of those who are responsible for final distribution of grants locally. A final vote on the law will be in two weeks.

Street Abandonment Eyed

SALISBURY — Salisbury's public works department is continuing efforts to turn over obscure city property of no value to taxpayers.

The city council Monday night agreed to introduce an ordinance that would abandon land that had once been projected as a possible street running south from Bateman Street. The formal abandonment, if approved in a final vote in two weeks, would turn over the so-called street, 50 feet by 305 feet, to adjacent property owners known as Bateman Street Properties. The owners want to develop the land.

The council said it will pass the ordinance if all property deeds are brought up to date as recommended by the city solicitor.

2/16/84

GETTING ACQUAINTED. After renewing her membership as a Friend of the Salisbury Zoo, Zoo Commission member Martha Graham stopped in to say hello to one of the deer. The apples she brought along got the friendship off to a good start, but there was considerable risk involved. The deer presents a dangerous combination of sharp antlers (in this case, just one) and high-strung personality. (News and Advertiser photo by Dawn Lundstrom)

Zoo Friends Kick Off Drive

By DAWN LUNDSTROM

Friends of the Salisbury Zoo, a non-profit organization which offers financial support to the Salisbury Zoological Park, will be holding its first annual membership drive from Feb. 17 through March 31. A mail campaign and participation in the Salisbury Festival are amoung the planned activities of the drive.

According to the group's president, Randy Romblad, membership in the FOSZ helps provide the Salisbury Zoo with equipment, supplies and moneys for projects that would not be funded by other sources. It also provides added support for larger projects, such as three new South American exhibits now under construction. The exhibits, expected to be completed in the spring, are being funded by the City of Salisbury, the United States Department of Energy, Perdue, Inc. and the FOSZ.

Peter Crowcroft, the Zoo's director, said zoos cannot depend solely on tax dollars and, "In the present political climate groups such as the FOSZ are playing a more vital role."

The Zoo, which is located on 25 acres of Salisbury City Park, features 30 exhibits which display over 75 species of birds, mammals and reptiles native to North and South America. Its policies and goals are directed by the Zoo Commission, an appointed agency under the City's Department of Public Works.

Councilwoman Martha Graham serves as liason between the Zoo Commission and the City Council. She is also a member of the FOSZ and believes the Zoo plays an important role in the community.

Romblad outlined the Zoo's role, "It's an educational tool, a cultural spot, an attraction for people all over Delmarva, and it's a place where conservation efforts to protect endangered species can be carried out. And, unlike most other zoos," he added, "it's free family entertainment."

As an incentive to join, the FOSZ is offerring with certain memberships free, limited edition, commemorative prints, "The Bald Eagle" by artist Jim Beisinger, a keeper at the Zoo, and "Spectacled Bears" by Paul Kratzer, a local artist and vice-president of the FOSZ, which celebrates the birth of the endangered species cubs at the Zoo in 1980.

Membership fees range from $5 for an individual membership to $50 patron membership. Anyone interested in joining the Friends of the Salisbury Zoo should contact Romblad at 543-6623 or call the Zoo's office.

Ground Broken For Wicomico Recreation Facility

2/29

PARK STARTED. George McPhail, center, a member of the Eastern Shore Baseball Hall of Fame, shovels dirt at the proposed Naylor Mill recreation park during groundbreaking ceremonies Tuesday. In the foreground, from left, are: Gary Mackes, Wicomico County's recreation and parks director; recreation commission chairwoman Catherine McCain and county council members Henry Parker and Bruce Ruark. (Times Photo)

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — For years, Wicomico County softball enthusiasts envisioned themselves as potential hosts of a major national championship in the summertime sport that could be played in this community.

Local recreation program supporters witnessed a big step toward that goal Tuesday when the ceremonial first shovels of dirt were turned at the edge of a 41-acre wooded site off Naylor Mill Road, signaling the start of construction on a major new recreation complex.

In remarks to 40 or so people who gathered for the groundbreaking ceremony, county council President Henry S. Parker predicted "this is going to be a second City Park." Spectators nodded in agreement.

If work goes according to plans, the half-million dollar complex could be ready by the spring of 1986, recreation and parks director Gary W. Mackes told the crowd.

The ceremony was the first visible sign that the end had come to years of intensive lobbying and planning for a major new facility that would relieve pressures on neighborhood softball fields across the county.

CATHERINE McCAIN, chairwoman of the county recreation commission, recounted how the panel she heads had mediated plenty of disputes over noise from late-night softball games near residential neighborhoods.

McCain said the commission had difficulty keeping two groups happy — the thousands of participants in the softball programs and the homeowners who pay county taxes that fund the operation of those programs. With four softball diamonds, the new complex should solve the problems of trying to provide an isolated place to play most of the 2,000 league games and 21 weekend softball tournaments now staged each summer.

In addition to softball fields, the recreation department has plans for a 700-car parking lot, lighting for night play, a restroom-concession stand-meeting room facility, picnic area and playground. The park will also be the site of an adult-size baseball field and the accompanying Eastern Shore baseball "hall of fame" building.

STATE AND local money will be used to pay for the project. The county government has committed $297,500 for the park and the state has already put up $173,000 in Program Open Space. County officials are counting on the state to provide another Program Open Space grant of $82,500 in the coming year, if state legislators decide to keep that program in tact. Indications out of Annapolis today are that the program will not be eliminated.

Whatever happens the park is expected to become a county showpiece. Parker and the other council members have been big supporters of the park's development because they see it as another tool to attract tourists and their money to the community.

SURVEYING THE SCENE. Salisbury's revitalization manager, Philip C. "Pete" Cooper, surveys the Downtown Plaza which has been the focus of attention over the last two years in an exterior fix-up program utilizing $300,000 in federal grants. Behind Cooper is the Old Synagogue building which is getting new windows through the program. (Times Photo)

Revitalization

Efforts Seen Bringing Results In Downtown Salisbury

SALISBURY — Pete Cooper's revitalization office here could be called an incubator. Some of the projects which have been hatched there have been credited with helping create a new image for downtown Salisbury.

Other ideas have fizzled, but, as Cooper acknowledges, that's part of the game.

During Cooper's first two years on the job, revitalization has emphasized fixing up buildings, diversifying business in the district and promoting special events.

During that period, the city has acquired nearly $300,000 in federal grants, which it has handed out to property owners who have committed personal finances to improving their buildings. Cooper estimated that more than $1 million has been poured into building renovations since the federal grants were awarded.

While there have been disappointments, city officials, R/UDAT volunteers and Cooper are pleased with early results.

Cooper pointed to the 40,000-plus increase in the number of cars using downtown parking lots in 1983 as an indication that people have rediscovered downtown.

"It's an on-going process. We've got to keep pushing on," Cooper said.

THE EMPHASIS in revitalization is currently on food and lodging. If all goes

has expressed interest in developing the R/UDAT waterfront plan. The firm, which Cooper said has not made a commitment, is interested in building mid-rise apartments, a hotel, several restaurants and a produce and food open air market along the waterfront.

TWO FACTORS will influence whether the firm makes a commitment.

The first is an economic feasibility study scheduled to be done shortly.

"The numbers have to work for the private investor or else you're just wasting your time," Cooper said.

The second factor is the national economy. Cooper said the success of securing the developer's commitment may hinge on continuing economic recovery.

But if the large federal deficit brings back double-digit inflation and interest rates rise again, developers would be unable to borrow money to finance major projects.

Cooper said key ingredients to success so far have been support by the city government and volunteerism by dozens of people who have served on advisory task forces.

One group which has had a major impact is the "Promotions" task force, which meets weekly to come up with ideas for *special events. It has been responsible for events organized around holiday cel-*

velopers.

Cooper also said the developer the city is currently courting is excited about the strong R/UDAT organization and the dozens of experts who have volunteered their time and efforts.

Cooper said if the economic feasibility study is positive, the next phase would be for the city to assist the developer in acquiring property downtown. The city already has options to buy land that has been offered for sale.

The options are limited, Cooper said, so the city and the developer must act quickly.

The city may also have to help put together a financing package, perhaps through the sale of bonds or creation of special tax districts. Cooper said his research shows that federal block grants from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development department are be available for developers.

Cooper said he thinks progress is being made on the project. "The next couple of weeks should tell," he said.

Bright Future Seen For Salisbury

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Paul Martin says Reaganomics "hasn't been that disastrous" to programs he has tried to push during his first two years as this city's mayor.

"It hasn't affected us as much as the major cities," he said, "we've been very fortunate."

Martin also sees bright prospects in spite of federal economic policies in the remaining two years of his term. He said that "we can't let our programs stop regardless of who's running the federal government.

"We've got to keep going. We may not be able to go as fast or as far, but we're going to keep going," he said.

Martin is a believer in a theory that the Eastern Shore's economy is generally insulated from harsh fluctuations in the national economic picture. He also knows who should get the credit.

"You couldn't buy the kind of talent we have in this city," he said, referring to the many volunteers on various advisory panels the city government draws on for advice in decision making.

Since Martin took office, 54 new businesses have opened around the city. For the first time since 1978, the parking system run by the city in the downtown business district will show a profit during 1983.

"I think that reflects that some of that hard work is starting to pay off," he said.

REAGAN administration policies have had some negative impact, however, primarily in the area of housing and related grant programs.

One negative byproduct of Reaganomics, Martin said, is a scarcity of money available through federal housing and urban development programs like those which used to assist urban renewal and construction of low-cost housing for the poor and elderly.

While much of that kind of aid has dried up, Martin said "we're working other angles" such as acquisition of grants from state sources.

Martin called city efforts to utilize grants for housing improvements and maintenance as one of the most important projects under his administration. The elimination of urban renewal programs troubles Martin because the city has been unable to stimulate development of West Main Street to coincide with other revitalization projects.

Revenue sharing — a program providing grants the federal government hands out to local governments — had been threatened with extinction but was saved by Congress last fall. Martin calls revenue sharing "an important source of income but we were prepared to do without it if we were forced to."

The city has targeted $500,000 for use in paying for street light electric bills and road repairs. Martin said a change in federal guidelines eliminating demands that the local government explain how the revenue sharing grants would be spent has been a positive step.

"I'm for simplifying government. You know, it really worries me when the government runs the people instead of the people running the government," Martin said.

WHILE MUCH of America struggled, Salisbury pushed ahead with such programs as backing downtown revitalization, upgrading East Main Street, street and sidewalk repairs and consolidation of the police department. Some were funded with local tax dollars and others were paid for with federal aid.

Martin is hoping Salisbury's image as a progressive community will some day make it attractive as a potential retirement community which would attract people looking for value in their dollar. Of more immediate importance, Martin is anxious to see postive results from local efforts to promote tourism.

Martin said Reaganomics

Mayor W. Paul Martin

means the local government has to do more for its constituents. That fits in well with his philosophy of running the city government. He has tried to "erase the imaginary line between the city and county government" on issues which traditionally divided the community. County officials agree relations between the two governments are at the highest point in years.

In early 1983, the city and county forged a new agreement to share the cost of paying for ambulance service. For $1, the city sold the county land off Naylor Mill Road so it could be developed into a major sports complex. Both governments see the new park as a facility to take pressure off the popular City Park.

The city just agreed to allow the county to run municipal water service to the airport east of the city. Martin said the move is mutually beneficial to both governments. Sometime later this year, the city and county are expected to decide whether another joint agreement can be reached on solving a septic waste disposal problem facing the county government.

Martin said he tries to keep a fresh outlook on serving in public life by "constantly thinking of new projects. I've got lots of things in mind I haven't even tapped yet.

"I don't really care who is president or what their policies are. We've got a progressive city here with a lot of good people. We're going to continue to move forward," Martin said.

City Establishes Jurisdiction 2/28/84

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council has reaffirmed its jurisdiction as a primary lawmaking and law enforcing government body.

The council Monday night enacted an ordinance declaring it has legislative authority within the city limits when city laws conflict with those passed by the Wicomico County Council.

The city ordinance was drafted in reaction to a 1981 case in which the state highest court upheld the right of Prince Geroge's County to enforce one of its laws on a citizen in the town of Forest Heights, where jurisdiction was not clearly defined.

The new law says the city charter and general public law give a municipality the right to pass and enforce its own laws without worrying about how the measures may differ from those on the county books.

Salisbury Ethics Code Expanded

SALISBURY — The City of Salisbury's ethics code has been amended so it affects a few more employees today.

The city council passed an ordinance Monday night changing the code so that it now prohibits employees from working with grants if they have any relationships with firms that might benefit from a contract paid for with money that comes the federal government.

The law states the city's willingness to assume responsibility in monitoring its employees for potential "conflicts of interest." The law was passed in response to a recommendation by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which recently audited the city's performance in grant programs.

Closing Of Street Approved

SALISBURY — A developer who is considering construction of a condominium on property in south Salisbury has been given the right to use 1,526 square feet of land that once been proposed for use as a street.

The Salisbury City Council Monday night enacted an ordinance ordering the official closing of the 50-foot wide "Plant Street," which had been requested by attorneys for Bateman Street Properties.

The property is adjacent to both railroad tracks and land owned by Bateman Street Properties. City public works department officials said they could not envision the land ever being used as street and supported the request. The council was told the adjacent landowners had agreed to sign a deed of easement so the city could have ready access to utilities in the area if needed in the future.

City OKs Firm For New Study

By BILL ROBINSON 2/28/
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Efforts to find a firm willing to develop downtown Salisbury's riverfront by this spring are starting to intensify.

The Salisbury City Council Monday night gave tentative approval to the selection of a nationally-known consulting firm to work up a market study on the feasibility of constructing housing, a major hotel, restaurants and grocery sales-oriented shops along the Wicomico River. Final terms of an agreement are expected to be worked out by the mayor's staff and reviewed with the council in the next several weeks.

The recommendation to choose Parnell Kerr Forster, a Washington-based accounting firm, came from R/UDAT revitalization project manager Philip C. "Pete" Cooper.

For several months, Cooper has been wooing a central Maryland developer to take over the next phase of the downtown revitalization program backed by the city government and its volunteer advisory panel, the R/UDAT Action Group.

Cooper said Monday night the firm he is in contact with needs proof from a reputable consultant that money would be well-invested in a such a major development if it can be shown the project is financially feasible.

The Parnell offer carries a $29,000 price tag, $12,000 more than what a Baltimore firm also interested in the job had estimated as the cost of such a study.

Cooper said Parnell has a nationally-known reputation as a thorough and accurate appraisor of such major development proposals. He said if Parnell gives the city a favorble report, then the city should have little trouble coming to terms with a developer.

The city is being pressed to act quickly on Cooper's recommendation because it has options to acquire several major pieces of property along the river and West Main Street and those contracts expire in May. If a feasibility study yields positive results and a developer can be committed to doing the work, the city can expect to receive federal funds for land acquisition.

The council rejected the offer by Morton Hoffman of Baltimore because Cooper said a Parnell seal of approval would carry greater weight when the city tries to finalize any future deals with a developer.

Councilman Samuel W. Seidel abstained from voting for Parnell, saying he was not well enough informed on the reputation of that firm to vote against another which had submitted a less-costly

Today's Weath

Chincoteague Inlet
High Low
6:59 a.m. 12:43 a.m.
7:23 p.m. 1:17 p.m.

Cut In Md.'s Open Space Program Draws Criticism

3/1/84

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — State legislators think they have found a way to fund $90 million in supplemental budget requests sought by Gov. Harry Hughes, but Wicomico County's recreation and parks director is not among the supporters of the latest proposal to tap Program Open Space funds.

Gary W. Mackes believes the popular recreational development program, which has meant nearly $2 million in grants to develop 63 recreational projects in Wicomico County in the last 15 years, could be on its last leg.

An upswing in sales in the housing market in the last year made the Program Open Space fund swell to $42 million for the new fiscal year which starts July 1. The money is generated by state property transfer taxes and is derived from a formula earmarking one half of 1 percent of all property sales to the POS fund.

Throughout much of the latter part of February, Program Open Space appeared to be in jeopardy. Lawmakers in Annapolis, faced with finding money to pay for expanded education and Chesapeake Bay cleanup projects, appeared ready to ax the program which helped pay for such facilities as the Delmar sports complex, River Walk Park in Salisbury, tennis courts in Mardela Springs and basketball courts in Powellville.

Mackes estimates money provided since Program Open Space's inception has enabled the county to build four out of every five recreational facilities now used by citizens. Loss of POS funds would force Mackes to alter future recreational planning, including development of a neighborhood park system.

Early Wednesday, lawmakers and Hughes announced a new budget proposal for fiscal 1985 that would spare Program Open Space by providing it with $24 million, an $8 million increase over the current budget.

Mackes says the compromise budget proposal raises questions about the future of planned recreational development.

"If this gets through, it will eventually mean the end of Program Open Space," Mackes predicted.

"IT'S A matter of principle. The money for Program Open Space came from a dedicated tax. It sets a precedent I'm afraid could have serious consequences," he said. "We're just starting to catch up (to requests for recreational facilities). What will it be next year and the year after that."

Mackes said statistics like the $2 million spent in Wicomico on 63 recreation projects has done much to improve the quality of life.

Del. Lewis R. Riley, R-38th, has a different view. He called Wednesday's announcement "an acceptable alternative."

"The governor's proposal is not unreasonable," Riley said of the plan to divert $18 million in POS funds to other projects. "It's not going to do much damage to local governments.

"Another way you can look at it, what's more qualified as 'open space' than the Chesapeake Bay?" he said.

Riley said he opposed raising personal income taxes because of the size of this year's POS fund. "It's not good sound fiscal policy to raise taxes when you already have money available from some other source," Riley said.

Mackes said he does not want an image as an obstructionist in providing aid to education or the bay cleanup. He said lawmakers might have overlooked minor spending cuts in an across-the-board review of all state programs that could have been used to pay for Hughes' costly initiatives.

Salisbury Traffic Light Installation Hits Snag

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — It was a week of frustration for State Highway Adminstration workers here.

At the intersection of West College Avenue and South Salisbury Boulevard, one of the city's busiest, a new set of traffic signal lights went up one day and came down the next.

According to SHA district engineer James W. Magill, the agency is in the process of switching the way it mounts lights at that intersection.

For years, the signal lights there have been suspended from wire cables. New poles with masts that would hang out over the roadway are the replacements the SHA has called for at the intersection.

MAGILL said an inspection at the site last week revealed some problems with the poles at the intersection. Apparently, some welding work on the poles was not satisfactory.

"The poles were of a questionable quality," Magill said, "so we decided to take them down and have the manufacturer correct the problem."

Magill said taxpayers would not be picking up the tab on any new poles because the contract with the manufacturer calls for payment only after the new equipment passes an on-site inspection. The project will cost about $15,000.

The SHA is constantly evaluating its traffic signals across the state and routinely recommends replacement of some equipment where it is needed. Magill said the decision to switch to lights mounted directly on poles in Salisbury fits in with a planning and zoning proposal supported by local officials to remove as much overhead wiring as possible until all utility lines are relocated underground.

MAGILL said the timing of the pole and light removal at the south Salisbury intersection was coincidental with complaints which have emerged recently from some overland haulers.

Magill said he recently answered questions from a local house mover who was worried the poles would prohibit the use of the highway. Magill said the new pole configurations are designed to give "plenty of clearance" for all traffic.

DOWN WITH THE LIGHTS. Jamie Thorton of Stockton removes one of the stop lights installed, but never used, at the South Salisbury Boulevard-West College Avenue intersection in Salisbury. (Times Photo by Brice Stump)

Home Rule Day

3/1/84

Marking the 30th anniversary of Home Rule in the State's municipalities, Governor Harry Hughes declared March 1st Home Rule Day in Maryland. City Councilmen Norm Holland (center) and Bob Powell (right) applaud the efforts of Council President Norman Conway as he plants a dogwood tree in honor of the event. Conway commented that he is proud of the growth Salisbury has seen since home rule and looks forward to the city's continued success. (News and Advertiser photo)

Airport Project Funds Approved

3/7/84

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Funding approval for two major projects at the Salisbury-Wicomico County Airport announced Tuesday means the transportation facility will be getting $2.4 million worth of improvements this year.

The county council accepted a low bid of $1,036,515 from a New Jersey firm to extend a sewer main from Shoppers' World on Route 50 at Tilghman Road to the airport about two miles away. Work is expected to get under way in several weeks.

In Washington Tuesday, the Federal Aviation Administration announced it had approved a $1.25 million grant to Wicomico County for use in reconstructing much of the airport's major runway system.

THE COUNTY and state will each contribute another $70,000 to the runway improvement project, bringing the total cost of the project to an estimated $1.39 million.

County administrator Matthew E. Creamer called the FAA announcement "good news" for the airport commission, which had targeted the runway maintenance and upkeep project as a top priority.

Newly-paved runways should attract more air traffic. The size and number of aircraft landing regularly at the airport will likely increase after the concrete work is finished, Creamer said. Landing restrictions for larger planes had been imposed because some runway paving is 40 years old.

Work on the paving project will begin as soon as the money is transferred to the county's control, expected later this year.

The sewer main extension was arranged by the county after lengthy negotiations with the City of Salisbury.

COUNTY officials are hoping the latest list of improvements will help the airport meet its predicted growth potential. An antiquated septic system had become outdated and a potential health problem, forcing the county to approach the city for help.

An alternative of constructing an airport sewer plant was ruled out as too expensive.

County officials and local business leaders believe the addition of municipal sewer service will also speed up development of an air industrial park that will be marketed as another component in the local economic development recruitment efforts.

The county council voted Tuesday to accept the sewer installaton proposal of A.V.P. Contracting Co. of Breton Wood, N.J. That firm won out over Lance J. Eller Inc., which estimated construction costs at $1.19 million and Marbro Co. Inc., which said it could do the job for $1.25 million.

The county council plans to use money from capital improvement bond sales specifically earmarked for water and sewer projects over the last several years. Municipal water is not part of the airport utility package, however.

Creamer said the sewer main installation contract calls for work to be completed within 270 days of the starting date.

"I think it's safe to say we're very pleased with the way things are progressing," he said.

The Times Washington bureau contributed to this story.

Salisbury Zoo Gets Monkeys

3/24/84

SALISBURY — Four monkeys native to the jungles of Peru will soon entertain visitors at the Salisbury Zoo.

Zoo commission chairman Roland R. Leimann said a family group of long-haired spider monkeys, known as Ateles belzebuth, are the latest addition to the zoo's collection of South American fauna.

The monkeys cost $3,000. This brings the zoo's monkey population to seven.

The new monkeys are in quarantine at the zoo, but will be on view in their new outdoor enclosure prior to Memorial Day said Leimann.

The new exhibits have been made possible by grants totaling $24,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy, the City of Salisbury, the Salisbury Zoo Commission Inc. and Perdue Inc.

Beaglin Light Formula Changes

SALISBURY — The funding formula for construction of a traffic light at the Beaglin Park Drive - Mt. Hermon Road intersection has been changed.

The Wicomico County Council will contribute $11,250 to the $45,000 signal, scheduled to go into operation sometime before July 1985.

Several weeks ago, the council thought it would be sharing construction costs with the city of Salisbury and the state. But Tuesday, the council was told a State Highway Administration policy would require that the state pay the entire $33,750 difference.

Annexation Nearly Completed

2/28/84

SALISBURY — Property in the Saratoga Street area will be officially annexed into the Salisbury city limits by mid-April if no last-minute appeals are initiated.

The city council Monday night took final action on a resolution stating its willingness to add a dozen pieces of property to the city tax rolls.

The properties are bounded by Route 50, East Main Street, the north side of Saratoga Street and a boundary line that runs north and south from Centenary Drive. Two other pieces of property are owned by the state and federal governments and are not subject to taxation.

Public works officials said homeowners in that area already have water and sewer service but pay higher out-of-city charges, which will be reduced substantially when the annexation is official in 45 days.

Property Line Variance OK'd

SALISBURY — Developer Wilson Davis has won a zoning variance from the Salisbury City Council, clearing the way for construction of more waterfront housing off of Ridge Road.

Davis appeared before the council Monday night to explain that some unusual property configurations stood in his way of registering the land according to city subdivision regulations. Those regulations stipulate that all property lines must be perpendicular to city streets.

Davis said the unusual shape of the land he has targeted for construction makes compliance impossible. The council approved the variance. Several members praised Davis for keeping his promise to construct top-quality housing in the area.

EPA Eyes Pollution Tests

WASHINGTON (AP) — Industry and muncipal sewage treatment plants may be required by the Environmental Protection Agency to test the effect of their pollutants on acquatic life, the agency says.

The biological tests might be added to chemical tests already required for certain pollutants, the EPA said Wednesday.

Under the new policy, scientists might expose fish and other organism to samples of the discharge water and the mixture of the discharge water and receiving water and see what happens. They might have to examine fish tissue for toxic effects.

Stop Sign Criteria Now Official

3/29/84

SALISBURY — An official list of criteria will now be used by the Salisbury public works department when it is asked by citizens to install four-way stop signs at intersections around the city.

Public works officials urged the council to approve the list as a "policy" based on federal transportation department guidelines, but several city council members and Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr. said they opposed such stringent language that took away power from the city government.

Reacting to those remarks, Councilman Samuel W. Seidel offered a compromise. He suggested the council use the federal proposals for judging stop sign needs at intersections as criteria for review instead of official policy. The vote on Seidel's idea was unanimous.

Ordinance Establishes Policies On Storm Water Management

3/28/84

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council has put its OK on a rough draft of an ordinance which would establish far-reaching policies on storm water management.

The council approved the document Monday night following a presenation by two top-ranking public works department officials. If adopted in its present form, city officials say the new guidelines would affect the design and cost of all new development in the city.

Kenneth M. Haensler said nearly all local governments around the state would be drafting similar legislation which must be submitted to the Department of Natural Resources by April 1.

DNR will then review all local proposals to make sure they satisfy state guidelines. Haensler said a 1983 state law requires that all local governments adopt storm water management laws spelling out specific policies and how they will be enforced.

Those local laws supposedly should be enacted by July 1, but council members scoffed at the thought that the state agency would be able to review all the proposals fast enough to meet that deadline.

City officials said they worked closely with Wicomico County public works employees in developing a comprehensive storm water management plan agreeable to both governments. Haensler said whatever policies are approved by the state and local governments, all will have an impact on future development. The county government is expected to hear a similar presentation from its public works department shortly.

The city council's action Monday night means the five-member panel approved only an outline of a law it is willing to consider for formal adoption at an as-yet underdetermined future date.

Flood Cleanup Begins In Crisfield

3/30/84

By TOM LEONARD
and
BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

CRISFIELD — Residents of Crisfield and surrounding waterfront communities began mopping up today after what was described as the worst flooding here since Hurricane Hazel slugged the Shore 30 years ago.

The 2 to 4 feet of water which covered virtually every city street here Thursday receded overnight. Strong northwest winds helped drive the floodwaters away from shore late Thursday, easing fears of new flooding.

An estimated 150 people who spent the night in emergency shelters at the Crisfield National Guard Armory, Crisfield High School and in Deal Island at the elementary school were all reported to be leaving this morning. Others who had stayed with friends and relatives also headed home.

The falling waters left Crisfield streets full of old crab pots, mounds of uprooted marsh grass, tree parts and other debris. Several boats which broke loose Thursday in 50-mph gusts were back at their moorings before waters fell.

There were no official damage estimates, but lower levels of many homes and downtown businesses were under water at the peak of the storm.

ABOUT 20 National Guard troops from Crisfield and other Shore towns spent most of Thursday evacuating residents in low-lying areas. The evacuees included 40 to 50 elementary school children who were treated to lunch and taken by trucks to the homes of families and relatives.

Somerset County schools, which closed 10 a.m. due to the flooding Thursday, remained closed today. Schools opened as usual in Wicomico and Worcester.

At the request of Somerset disaster officials, the Wicomico County Chapter of the American Red Cross supplied cots and blankets for 200 people as well as food supplies for those stranded at the three shelters overnight.

A three-member Red Cross disaster team made up of local volunteers was to survey Somerset County today to determine if any additional help was needed.

Also participating in Thursday's evacuations were volunteers from Crisfield and other Somerset County community fire departments, the Maryland Natural Resources Police, state and Crisfield police, Coast Guardsman from the Crisfield station and other townspeople.

IN ONE case, three Coast Guardsman towed a 16-foot boat to a Calvert Road residence near here where Jack Tyler, a wheelchair-bound semi-invalid, reported 4 inches of water on the floors. Tyler had moved to the second floor when the Guardsmen arrived. He and his wife were transferred by boat to a neighbor's house.

Though Somerset County was hardest hit, the storm also caused the Wicomico River to rise to its highest level in the "last three or four years," according to Salisbury public works director Kenneth M. Haensler.

Haensler said the river overran its banks briefly at mid-day downtown and in the City Park. It receded quickly with the northwest wind and falling tide.

Storm drains filled to capacity and flooded some Salisbury streets. Some businesses lining the river reported water in their buildings but damage was thought to be minor.

Robert Logan of C&P Telephone Co. said phone service in southwestern Somerset County caused repair crews the most problems. Some phones in Ocean City were also knocked out briefly.

FLOODED. Photos taken in Crisfield following Thursday's flooding show, clockwise from top: Jordan Joyner, left, and his brother Rommell paddle home as a tow truck moves a stalled car behind them on Hall Highway; Steve Twilley, left, and Sheila Elliott, employees of the Meatland store, sweep water from the store; Tom Abbott of Crisfield carries one of the occupants of a flooded house to safety. (Times Photos by Brice Stump)

RETIREE SALUTE. Norman H. Conway, right, the Salisbury City Council president, presents a certificate to retiring public works employee Wilson P. Hall, center, at a recent party his co-workers organized in his honor. Hall worked as a street sweeper driver for 14 years for the city. His wife Odessa also attended the surprise party.

4/1/84

Computers Eyed For City Hall

SALISBURY — Computer technology may be coming to city hall here. 4/13/84

The Salisbury City Council Monday night accepted a follow-up study from its accountant on ways the city government should consider switching its record-keeping chores over to a computer system.

The vote was for an acceptance of the report, not adoption of the recommendations which suggest the city buy a computer system for the treasurer's office in the range of $90,000 to $100,000.

That recommendation is being studied by Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr., who is working on a recommended fiscal 1985 budget for council consideration. Martin is noncommittal whether he will back the purchase of a system in the coming year.

Downtown Land Rules Amended

SALISBURY — An amended policy on how to handle disposition of surplus property in downtown Salisbury has been adopted by the city council.

The council Monday night voted unanimously to endorse the recommendations of the city's planning and zoning commission, which worked up the changes several months ago.

The plan emphasizes the city's desire to have developers adhere to the concepts in the several downtown revitalization studies. It updates city maps and declares which properties are considered surplus as well as which are no longer available for sale. The new policy also declares the city's intention to use a panel known as "downtown riverfront development review committee" to review proposals and make recommendations to the city council."

DOGWOOD PLANTED. Salisbury Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr., far right, helps plant a dogwood tree donated by the Coastal Board of Realtors in the Salisbury City Park Friday. Also attending, from left, were city forester Steve Eccleston and Linda Betts and Bill Martin, president, of the Coastal Board. The planting was held in honor of Arbor Day and Private Property Week, April 8 through April 14, when the board will begin to offer Dogwoods at $5 each to benefit the Salisbury Dogwood Festival later this year. (Times Photo by Tom Leonard) 4/7/84

WAITING PATIENTLY ... WELL, ALMOST! The latest additions to the collection of animals at the Salisbury Zoological Park, an ocelot and four spider monkeys, are waiting for construction of their exhibit to finish before meeting their Salisbury public. M'Lady, the ocelot, is a member of a rare and endangered species native to Central and South America. The monkeys, currently in quarantine at the zoo, are natives of Peru. They are agile and quite lively. They will be entertaining zoo visitors this summer when their new home is ready. (News and Advertiser photos)

SLIDE DISCUSSION. Theodore Reed, left, director emeritus of the National Zoo, explains the contents of a slide to Randy Romblad, center, president of the Friends of the Salisbury Zoo, and Peter Crowcroft, right, director of the Salisbury Zoo, during a special membership meeting. (Times Photo by Brice Stump)

4/21/84

Washington Zoo Director Visits Zoo In Salisbury

SALISBURY — Members of the Friends of the Salisbury Zoo were recently given an exclusive presentation on the life of China's pandas and the two pandas at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., by Dr. Theodore Reed, director emeritus of the zoo.

An audience of 125 supporters of the local zoo attended the Thursday night meeting held in Salisbury. Earlier in the day, Reed entertained children of zoo supporters during a special program at the Wicomico Free Library.

Reed accompanied his hour-long program with a movie produced by the Chinese and a slide presentation. "The Washington Zoo has the only pair of pandas in the nation. Zoologically, they are among the most interesting animals in the world," Reed said.

"I do not believe people in Salisbury realize that their zoo is one of the best managed, best presented small zoos in the nation. The Salisbury Zoo has a reputation from coast to coast for being an outstanding place. The most important measure of success for any zoo is whether the facility serves the animals and the public in the best manner. The Salisbury Zoo has certainly accomplished its mission," Reed said.

Reed revealed information about National Zoo pandas which he says is so fresh it hasn't been published yet.

Council Discusses Joint Sewer Plant Agreement

4/10/84

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — A proposal which would expand Salisbury's sewer plant so it could accept waste pumped from residential septic tank systems outside the city limits will be the focus of a public hearing May 14.

The city council voted 3-to-1 Monday night to accept a report developed by a consultant and the public works department calling for a $500,000 addition to the Marine Road plant. The vote to accept the preliminary report also established a tentative outline for implementing the proposal. But before any plan can be finalized, a hearing must be held to determine public sentiment on the proposal.

Councilman Samuel W. Seidel voted against the plan, saying it could lead the city into an agreement with the Wicomico County government which would be difficult to cancel should problems arise in the future.

"ONCE WE start accepting this, there's no turning back," said Seidel, who stood during his remarks because he said he was "strongly against this."

The city and county officials have been involved in negotiations to develop plans calling for construction of a sewage pretreatment plant that would allow septic tank waste to be processed by the city's existing sewer plant.

Elected officials from the city and county met last Thursday with state health department officials for a briefing on the report made public Monday night.

The county is under intense pressure from state and federal officials to close down its Blackwater lagoon between Pittsville and Delmar. The lagoon is the spot where local septic waste haulers dump what their trucks pump from residential septic systems. Health officials say the highly-toxic waste is a threat to the environment and water supplies in the area.

The county has approached the city about a joint agreement to approve and construct a pretreatment plant as a way of saving on the substantial cost of building a new county-owned sewer plant. Estimates for a new plant at today's prices exceed $3 million. City public works officials estimate it would take at least five years to construct.

ON THE other hand, a pre-treatment plant would cost the county only about $63,000 — enough money to trigger the release of some $500,000 in state and federal funds which would be used for construction.

According to the pretreatment plant proposal, the city would be responsible for requiring each commercial hauler to acquire a renewable permit and pay a "tipping fee" for each time a truck dumped waste into the plant.

Mayor W. Paul Martin is a supporter of the pretreatment plant plan and has been one of the city's chief contacts with county officials.

Neither Martin or the council members who favored moving ahead with planning offered any remarks directed at countering those made by Seidel.

Seidel said he would continue his opposition because he represents constituents he believes do not want to see the city enter into such a perpetual agreement with the county.

"I think our accepting this would be a terrible, terrible mistake," Seidel said, noting the waste trucks which would pass through the city pose many potential problems.

Public works officials estimate a pre-treatment plant could be constructed within two years if no hitches in the preliminary schedule crop up.

Citizens Voice Grievance Over Sewer Smell

4/10/84

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Elected officials here say they believe they are close to solving an odor problem caused by the municipal sewage treatment plant that has a group of nearby home owners angry and ready to do battle with the city.

Mayor W. Paul Martin said Monday night at the city council session he is planning to step up negotiations with at least one major city industry to correct a problem of grease which is flowing into the sewer plant and causes it to break down frequently.

Martin's promise came during a discussion which started when Dr. and Mrs. Richard E. Bird came forward with questions about what steps the city is taking to eliminate the odor problem.

The Birds, who live on North Pinehurst Avenue, said they represented city and county residents who are tired of living with the noxious odors which frequently permeate the air in fashionable neighborhoods along the Wicomico River. Several prominent citizens, including former Mayor Dallas Truitt, were in the audience in support of the Birds' presentation.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT Norman H. Conway echoed Martin's remarks by saying the city council has been monitoring the mayor's behind-the-scenes efforts to get at least three food processing firms inside the city to comply with a 1973 law that establishes standardize sewer discharge guidelines.

Campbell Soup Co., Perdue Inc. and Purity Bacon are the firms which the city has been working with to stop the flow of grease into the sewer system, according to one city government source. Two of those firms are said to be in compliance and the third is working to install equipment to remove grease from the waste it discharges into the sewer system.

It is believed that one firm is causing the continuation of the odor problem, city officials indicated Monday night.

Martin said the firm he is prodding has run into problems with designing an efficient system at an acceptable cost. A recent deadline the city had urged the firm to meet has passed, city officials said.

MARTIN SAID HE has chosen to be flexible with the firm by not recommending that it be fined because the company is trying to find a solution. He also said the firm employs some 600 people and the industry is viewed as a key major employer in the area.

At one point, Nanette Bird asked the mayor what was more important, 600 jobs or the city taxpayers who have suffered a decade with the recurring problem. She urged the city to impose fines allowed in the 1973 law or "turn off their water."

Martin responded by saying "you turn off 600 jobs" and said he preferred to use a more diplomatic approach toward solving the problem.

In his early remarks, Dr. Bird said his neighbors are fed up with facing the odor problem in the summer months when the air is so foul that many people refuse to go outdoors or open the windows of their homes. He said he knew of two recent house sales that failed to meet the sellers' price expectations because of the odor problem.

One woman said she and her husband have abandoned their home during the summer months to escape the odor.

Conway said the city council views ending the odor problem as one of its top priorities. Martin also said improvements to the sewer plant has been one of his toughest challenges since taking office two years ago.

Martin said he hopes to help the remaining firm not in compliance find a solution "well before the hot weather sets in" although he could make no promises how soon that goal could be met.

Several residents who backed the Birds said they would be monitoring the city's response to their complaints.

One neighbor said a lawsuit against the city is being contemplated if no solution if found soon.

Progress Made On Grease Problem

4/12/84

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The plant manager of the Campbell Soup Co. here says his firm is working to install additional equipment designed to halt the flow of grease into the municipal sewer system.

Kenneth R. Maurer said Wednesday workers will begin construction of a $175,000 filter system within the next few weeks that would bring the plant into compliance with a city law governing industrial waste disposal.

The food processor indirectly came under fire at a city council session Monday night when a group of citizens complained about the persistent odors caused by the municipal sewage treatment plant.

Mayor W. Paul Martin explained then the sewer plant has been suffering a series of breakdowns that public works officials believe may have been caused by grease clogging filtering and treatment mechanisms.

Martin said Wednesday his explanations about the source of odors during the council session were not aimed at placing all the blame for sewer plant breakdowns on Campbell Soup Co. In fact, Martin never mentioned the firm or the other two industries which produce grease by name at the Monday night session.

MARTIN SAID Campbell Soup has demonstrated it is willing to cooperate with the city in trying to stop the flow of grease into city sewers.

"I believe they are proceeding to solve their problem. As long as they demonstrate that willingness, I'm willing to work with him," Martin said.

Maurer said Martin and other key city officials have been flexible in their demands because of problems in designing and acquiring the right type of filtering equipment to add to the plant's existing system.

Both men said discussions have been cordial.

Maurer said a consultant told company officials last year an adequate filtering system could be bought and installed for $100,000. But when the firm asked suppliers to bid on the job, the equipment was nearly double the cost estimates.

"Like any business, you want to take a second look at what you're doing when you're spending that kind of money," Maurer said.

MARTIN SAID he is convinced the company has experience difficulties in acquiring a new system and the delays have been unavoidable. His said his philosophy in negotiations with Campbell has been to be "very, very patient. I'm not looking for fine money, although I don't want anyone to think we wouldn't use it as a very last resort. We're not even close in this case."

But Martin also said "the time for a solution is here ... it is at hand." He said he has asked the company to meet an early June deadline, although "there is some room for negotiation."

Maurer said some of the equipment has not yet been delivered, so the new system might not be operating at peak efficiency until August.

Nevertheless, the new equipment which will be installed over the next six weeks "should show some improvement we think will take pressure off the city's plant."

"WE'RE COMMITTED to getting this done," said Maurer, who has seen employment rise at the plant by some 150 workers in the last year. The company has approximately 600 people on the payroll.

When Campbell Soup's new filtering system is operational, all three industries should be in compliance with city law. Perdue Inc. and Purity Bacon are the other two firms which have heeded Martin's advice to install new equipment since he took office two years ago.

Martin said the city will continue to monitor the situation.

Salisbury Has Water Rescue Unit

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — For more than a year, a group of eight men drawn from Salisbury's fire, police and public works departments have been training to become experts in the highly-specialized skill of underwater search and recovery.

All are certified divers now, capable of handling emergencies that in the past have required the services of expensive contract divers.

With the Wicomico River and plenty of ponds in the area, the Salisbury Underwater Rescue Unit is seen by leading city officials as a natural expansion of city services.

SURU has responded to 10 calls for help in the last several months. Tasks have ranged from recovery of stolen property for local police to plugging vents on a sunken ship at the request of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Fire chief Francis Darling and police chief Coulbourn Dykes say the team further diversifies their departments and creates a spirit of cooperation among city agencies. The team even has its own vehicle, a van retrieved from the city's public works department and outfitted to carry the scuba equipment.

THE TEAM is also seen by city officials as a promotional tool. It could enable Salisbury to help another community or an agency such as the Coast Guard in return for reciprocal favors.

When a torrential rain storm flooded the Wicomico River March 29, a dumpster floated away from a shoreline property and settled on the river bottom. Because the large metal box posed a threat to barge traffic, the team was called into action. Divers spent 3½ hours retrieving the dumpster from the mud, according to team leader and instructor Ozzie Hilderson.

"It's a good example of the kind of service we can perform," said Hilderson, a diver for 14 years.

There is much enthusiasm within the team. The men are dedicated, and they spend a lot of free time checking over equipment, performing diving exercises and working on the van.

The men receive no extra pay. Team members were paid for the cost of training and travel, which Hilderson figures was about $500 per man. A $600 donation paid for pool rental at the YMCA. The city spent more than $7,000 on scuba equipment the men use and a special instructor's course for Hilderson so he could teach the others.

WORD IS spreading that SURU members are certified. With the help of team members, Hilderson is teaching a group of Ocean City employees in early phases of the year-long course.

Over the weekend, SURU demonstrated its skills at a law enforcement conference in the resort. The team will put on another demonstration as part of this year's Salisbury Festival.

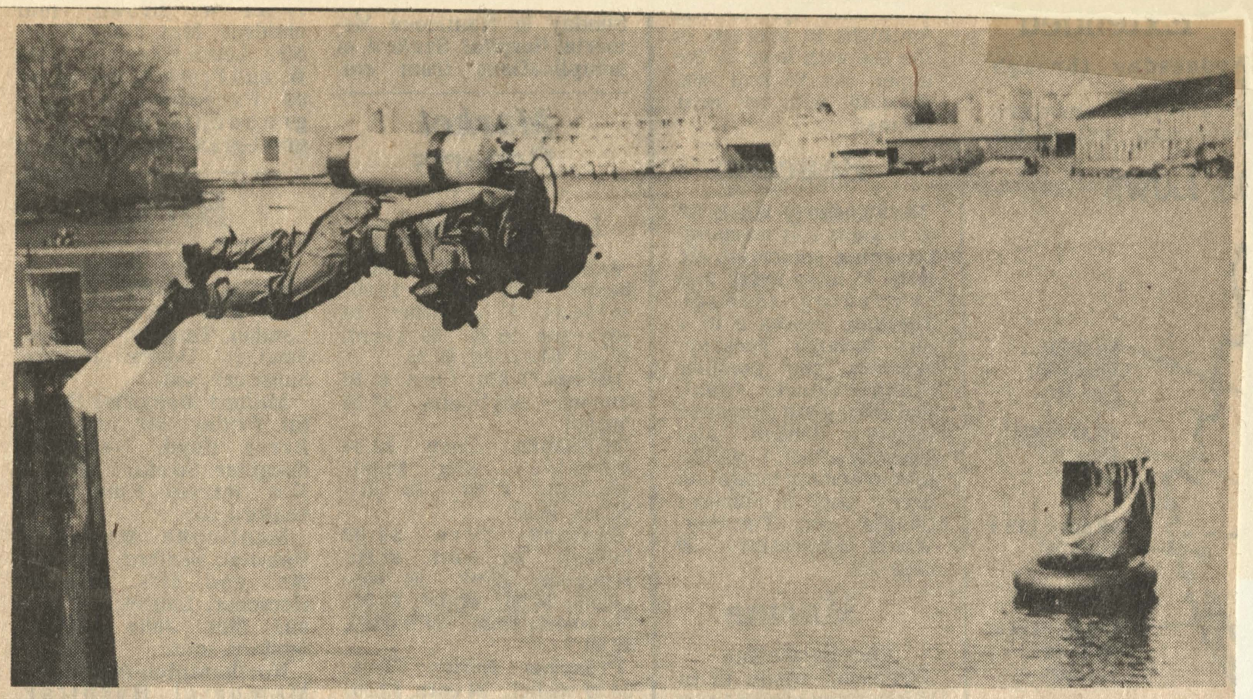
The intensive training routine includes instruction in rescuing people trapped underwater, recovering flight recorders from airplanes, collecting evidence for police investigations, handling hazardous materials and diving under ice, Hilderson said.

Even though SURU members are certified, they must make monthly practice dives to remain in good standing on the team.

"The environment the divers work in is treacherous," Hilderson said. "They work in waters so dirty that not even daylight penetrates the bottom. Waters are mostly cold and loaded with debris, risking entanglement.

"It's no vacation being involved with this," he said.

4/16/84



PRACTICE DIVE. Ed Parker, a recently certified search and recovery diver, plunges into a murky Wicomico River during a test of diving equipment near the Riverside Drive boat ramp. (Times Photo by Bill Robinson)

NEW TEAM. Volunteer members of the Salisbury Underwater Rescue Unit include, kneeling left to right, Bill Schneider, Ed Parker, John Swartz, Ozzie Hilderson, Fulton Bagwell, Gil LeMay, Vic Keen and Richard Hagel. Standing, are, at left, Fire Chief Francis Darling and Police Chief Coulbourn Dykes.

AT ZOO. Mianna Jopp, a representative of the Maryland Office of Tourist Development, Grace Lagana of the Corridor Information Centers in Laurel, and Diane Wolfe of the Youghiogheny Overlook Center listen to Dr. Peter Crowcroft, director of the Salisbury Zoo while on a familiarization tour of Wicomico County recently.

State Tourist Information Group Takes County Tour

4/17/84

SALISBURY — The Wicomico County Convention and Visitors Bureau was host recently to a group of personnel from Maryland State Tourist Information Centers in a familiarization tour of Wicomico County.

The group was escorted by Mianna Jopp of the State Tourism Department and included representatives of the Youghiogheny Overlook Center in Garrett County, I-70 East South Mountain Center in Frederick County, the Corridor Centers in Laurel, and the State House Center in Annapolis.

The group visited the Ward Foundation, and was greeted by Ken Basile, museum director. They dined as guests of the Sheraton Salisbury Inn and were provided lodging and breakfast by Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge and Restaurant.

They also visited the Salisbury Zoological Park, accompanied by Bonnie Smullen, tourism coordinator for Wicomico County. "The women were enchanted by the zoo's beauty and quality," said Smullen. "They couldn't believe such a place was nestled away in the City of Salisbury and said that it could be such a drawing card for out of town visitors."

They also toured Poplar Hill Mansion and the Newtown Historic District.

The Factory Outlets and Downtown Plaza provided an opportunity to observe city's revitalization efforts. The visitors also saw future plans for the riverfront in the Downtown Revitalization Office.

Also on the tour were the Rockawalkin One-Room Schoolhouse, where George White, president of the Wicomico County Historical Society, and Jane Dayton greeted guests. Dr. Robert McFarlin welcomed the group to the site of the future Pemberton Historical Park and he provided a guided tour of Pemberton Hall.

After lunch, compliments of English's Family Restaurants, they drove to Whitehaven. Betty Augustine provided a step-by-step picture of the original settlers of Whitehaven and the town's relationship to Whitehaven, England. The tour of the county was completed with a cruise across the river on the Whitehaven Ferry.

Letters To The Editor

Garbage Can Problems

4/24/84

Editor Of The Times:

I am writing this as a citizen of Salisbury and I am proud of it, but I just don't understand the way I was treated this week. The garbage truck came around and I had two garbage cans, both of them in use. There was a man riding on the truck inspecting garbage cans. He told me if I didn't stop using one of my cans I would be fined $25.

I did not put a dent in either can. The fellow that works on the truck bent the cans throwing them in the truck. The one he told me I could not use, I only put trash in it. I don't think it is fair to make me pay $25 when the men on the truck are the ones who bent them up.

I think the town should replace them. I've been living in Salisbury 55 years in this house. I have always paid my taxes and I am a member of Bethesda Church and have been for 50-some years. I don't think it is right to make me pay for some one else's doings. I bought a new can this week. I think the town should pay for it.

Lester H. Moore
Salisbury

More On Garbage Cans

Editor Of The Times:

The Salisbury city council, in all of it's infinite wisdom, has passed a trash container ordinance. This new restriction states that, as of June 1, 1984, all trash containers can be no more than 20 gallons. Violation of this new law will be punishable by a $25 fine and up to 30 days in jail.

I received notice of this new law today by a city representative who was spreading the good word door to door. The problem is this notice comes about two weeks too late. For you see, I just purchased two 30-gallon containers. Nice looking cans!

I'm not sure why this restriction was imposed upon the citizens of Salisbury. I do know that as long as I have lived here I have never seen a trash collector lift my trash cans. He simply removes the lid and pulls out the plastic bag. I don't feel that a 30-gallon lid is that much heavier than a 20-gallon lid.

Edward Grudzien
Salisbury

TREE GIVEN. Members of the Wicomico Women's Club stand beside one of the trees the club donated to the Salisbury City Park on Friday. Members include, from left: Pearl Hutchings, club conservation member; Helen Lane, arts chairman; Rosalind Burbage, president, and Juanita Anderton, vice president. Each year the civic organization gives a tree to be planted in the park. (Times Photo)

4/28/84

Saratoga Street Zoning Passes

4/24/84

SALISBURY — An ordinance that would officially designate zoning for property recently annexed into the city between Saratoga Street and Route 50 has been passed on first reading by the Salisbury City Council.

The measure calls for some 15 lots facing Saratoga Street to be designated for residential use under code guidelines stipulating each lot has a minimum area of 8,000 square feet. Another large chunk of land facing Route 50 would be zoned light business and institutional.

The ordinance will be voted on again at the May 14 city council session.

me Delivery Salisbury, Maryland, Tuesday, April 24, 1984

State To Spend $1M On Salisbury Traffic Signals

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The State Highway Administration plans to spend $1 million in the next two years replacing traffic signals along Route 13 and Route 50 in the city of Salisbury.

Thomas Hicks, an SHA traffic engineer, briefed Salisbury officials Monday night on the agency's long-range plans along the city's two major thoroughfares.

Hicks said the traffic light system overhaul would be started a year from now and would not be finished until mid-1986.

He said installation of the new lights would not likely cause many traffic problems for motorists, however. In fact, Hicks said motorist should see improvements when the first series of lights go up next year.

The state has targeted Salisbury to get new lights along the Route 50 corridor because of heavy east-west traffic heading to and from Atlantic Ocean resorts.

HICKS SAID a computer sensor system would be installed along Route 50 so heavy traffic could flow more smoothly.

Mayor W. Paul Martin expressed concern that the new system might clog sidestreets as city motorists tried to cross the highway. He also said he was hopeful the new system would not isolate the city from motorists who might be potential tourists in the community.

Traffic engineers assured Martin the computer system can be adjusted to avoid most of the problems he cited in the question and answer briefing.

Traffic along Route 13 should also move quicker during rush hours when the new light system is installed, Hicks said. A new timing mechanism would ensure that lights would stay green when traffic is heavy and then switch to a different pattern during periods when traffic is lighter, he said.

HICKS ALSO said the state would be willing to do detailed studies of the efficiency of troublesome lights at Mill Street and West Main Street, Baltimore Avenue at Route 13, Mt. Hermon Road at Civic Avenue and South Division and Vine Street at Route 13.

Council President Norman H. Conway urged SHA officials to include the Naylor Street-Route 50 intersection in the proposed study as a possible location for a new light. Conway, a volunteer firefighter, said the intersection is dangerous when fire trucks from the Brown Street station are trying to answer an emergency call in Salisbury's eastern suburbs.

Not only are the lights expected to improve traffic flow, the scenery should also improve. Traffic engineers said the SHA would be erecting new lamp posts, replacing the old wire suspension system that many people find unattractive.

THE DAILY TIMES

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PAGE 4 Salisbury, Md. Wed., April 25, 1984

Moving Traffic

The State Highway Administration plans to spend $1 million within the next two years upgrading traffic signals along Routes 13 and 50 in Salisbury.

This is good news for motorists using these busy highways. The new Route 13 Bypass east of Salisbury may have eased heavy truck traffic through the city but other traffic — both local and out-of-state — has increased considerably in the past few years.

Traffic on Route 50 is extremely heavy during the summer months as vacationers from the metropolitan areas drive to and from Shore resorts.

An SHA engineer said a computer sensor system would be installed on Route 50 so heavy traffic will move more smoothly.

A similar timing system will be intalled on the Route 13 installation so that signal lights will stay green when traffic is heavy and then switch to a different pattern as it decreases.

The engineer assured Salisbury officials that the computer systems can be adjusted so motorists on side streets will not be isolated.

Until computers solved the problem, traffic lights in cities with blocks of uneven length could not provide a smooth traffic flow. It was difficult to time lights so motorists could drive through an area with all green lights.

No city official a few decades ago could have imagined today's traffic problems. New businesses attract people and people create traffic problems. Route 13 in Salisbury today has changed from a north-south highway into a major shopping region.

The new traffic signals may not reduce congestion, but hopefully they will permit a more even flow of traffic.

Bacteria Tests Key To Opening Of Johnson's Pond

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

4/25/84

SALISBURY — City residents living near the Lakeside Drive beach once used as a public swimming area will have to wait until at least June before they will know whether the area will be reopened for recreational use.

Bacteria tests have been made monthly since last summer, but according to the local health official monitoring the problem, the final decision on whether the swimming area will be open this summer won't be known until the water in Johnson's Pond warms up sometime in June.

The beach was closed to swimmers last summer when Wicomico County health department officials found high levels of coliform bacteria, a microorganism commonly found in mammals and their waste.

Jay Bozman, a sanitarian the county's environmental health laboratory, said he won't know until "at least some time in June whether the bacteria levels have dropped significantly." Bozman has monitored the pond for five years.

To fight the bacteria problem, the city last summer spent about $6,000 for four wind-driven water circulators, hoping fresh water in the pond's central channel would dilute the bacteria enough to remove the health department ban.

The city council's action to buy the machinery from a Worcester County inventor sparked debate among residents in the adjacent neighborhoods. Some said they wanted to see the beach remain closed because it attracted what they described as undesirable visitors to their neighborhood.

Others who wanted to continue using the swimming area said it was an ideal neighborhood recreational facility for their families.

Bozman said it is too early to tell whether the wind-water circulators have done the job they were designed to do.

Two factors prevent Bozman from making a more accurate report on his studies.

Coliform bacteria is dormant in cold water and flourishes in warmer water, and the city was forced to remove the circulators over the winter because of ice problems on the pond.

The circulators are back now and Bozman said he will soon begin more frequent testing of water conditions.

Bozman said the high bacteria count only exists in the Lakeside Drive cove traditionally used for swimming. State law mandates that a swimming area be closed to human use when bacteria counts reach a certain level. The water tests exceeded those state levels last summer.

City OKs Design Of Joint Sewage Plant

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The City of Salisbury is one step closer to building a septic waste treatment system that would help the Wicomico County government solve a major health problem.

The city council voted 3-1 Monday night to accept a consultant's recommendation for a final design of a pre-treatment plant that would use chemicals to separate recyclable water and sludge from septic tank waste. The treated septic waste would then be processed again by the city's existing sewage treatment plant.

If such a plant is added to the city's existing sewage treatment system, it would relieve the county of having to build its own multi-million dollar facility. A final construction agreement must still be worked out with the county.

Councilman Samuel W. Seidel refused to support the proposed new plant's design because he said it would help the county but offer nothing in return for city taxpayers.

Other council members countered that if the county was forced to build its own sewage treatment plant, city residents would eventually see the result in their county tax bills.

SEIDEL ALSO questioned the speed with which the project was brought before the public, commenting, "It was one of the best kept secrets since I've been at city hall."

Mayor W. Paul Martin and council president Norman H. Conway said city and county employees had been working since last year on developing the best possible plan to eliminate confusion about the proposal.

The Wicomico County government is being pressured by the state health department to close the Blackwater lagoon, an isolated pond near Delmar used as a dumping ground for untreated septic waste pumped from tanks which serve rural residences.

The county faces the prospect of building its own waste treatment plant or convincing the city to agree to a less costly alternative by accepting septic tank waste at the city sewage treatment plant off Marine Road.

Martin became interested in helping the county with a pre-treatment plant construction proposal when he realized the city could acquire government grants for additional equipment needed to help eliminate a problem the city plant has with processing industrial grease.

THE PROPOSED pre-treatment plant has an estimated cost of $497,000. Even though the city would maintain and operate the facility, the county government would pay about $78,000 of the construction cost, and the rest would come from a federal grant.

Septic waste haulers currently licensed by state health officials would have to qualify for special permits to dump the hauled material in the pre-treatment plant. The haulers would also pay a "tipping" fee.

The consultant said the plant's design would cause few odor problems.

Nevertheless, Nanette Bird and former Mayor Dallas G. Truitt, both citizens of the Pinehurst area, expressed reservations about the city taking on additional waste processing projects when the current city plant has severe odor problems.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held by the City of Salisbury on Monday, May 14, 1984 at 8:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber Room, Room 301, of the Government Office Building, North Division St. & Church St., Salisbury, Maryland. The subject will be an addition to the existing wastewater treatment plant facilities plan for plant upgrading by which Wicomico County generated septage may be accepted and treated at the City Plant. Copies of the plan will be available for on-premises review at the City of Salisbury Public Works Department, Room 202, Government Office Building; Office of the Mayor, Room 304, Government Office Building and the Wicomico County Library, North Division St. and Market St., Salisbury, Maryland. Public involvement and comment are encouraged.

4-13, 15

1984

City Property Fund Is Increased

5/15/84

Salisbury Set To Spend $400,000 For Acquisition

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council has voted to increase to $400,000 the amount of federal grant money it will spend for the acquisition of property off West Main and Lake streets.

The city had intended to spend $287,500 for property acquisition but recently found another $120,000 was needed to buy some land not initially identified as crucial to long-range development plans.

The council voted to increase the property acquisition fund by $120,000. That amount had originally been set aside for the proposed purchase of the old G&K Warehouse, a plan which has since been scrapped.

The action reinforces the city's commitment to carry through with redevelopment of the city's downtown business district along the waterfront, according to council members who endorse the plan. The vote was 3-0, with Councilman Samuel W. Seidel abstaining.

Mayor W. Paul Martin urged the council to support a plan calling for the city's acquisition of all land bounded by Route 50, the Wicomico River, West Main and Lake streets. Options to buy the property that the city holds run out this Friday.

THE LAND is considered a prime location for a proposed business center which would combine the concepts behind the Lexington Market and Harborplace, highly successful retail sales centers in Baltimore.

Martin and other officials involved in downtown revitalization projects believe the property can be resold to a developer willing to take on such a project.

The city is currently negotiating with a developer, but that businessman won't make a final commitment until he sees the results of an economic feasibility report expected to be completed shortly. City officials are confident the report will be favorable.

Seidel warned the city might be gambling by acquiring the land and then finding itself stuck with surplus property if a firm cannot be found to develop the project. City officials were targets of such criticism when a similar project along West Market Street failed to materialize over a decade ago.

Other council members said this latest acquisition proposal would signal to developers that the city is behind its stated goals to support downtown redevelopment.

The vote Monday night was a formality required by the federal agency which provided the money. Last year, the city received an $800,000 Housing and Urban Development grant for downtown revitalization projects.

A Gamble?

5/16/84

The Salisbury City Council may be gambling $400,000 in federal grant money with the purchase of property off West Main and Lake streets.

Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr., however, believes the land is a prime location for a proposed business center similar to the successful Lexington Market and Harborplace in Baltimore.

He may be right.

City officials are hoping the property can be resold to a developer willing to undertake such a project. In fact, city officials are in the process of negotiating with a developer who is waiting the results of an economic feasibility report soon expected to be completed.

City officials are promoting the development of the downtown area and have had some success. Certainly, the Plaza is more attractive since merchants — some with financial aid from the city — have spruced up store facades. New businesses have open on the Plaza, always a healthy sign.

City officials believe the latest land acquision will indicate to developers that the city is supportive of downtown revitalization.

Councilman Samuel W. Seidel abstained from voting on the land purchase motion, warning that if a developer can not be found, the city may be stuck with the property, as it did several years ago with a similar project on West Market Street.

Revitalization projects to succeed can not be the sole responsibility of merchants. Successful projects have, the support — financial and moral — of governments.

If government support is evident, merchants and developers will be more willing to invest their capital.

Hopefully, Salisbury's latest effort will provide new vitality to the downtown sector.

News In Brief

Grant Shift Request OK'd

5/29/84

SALISBURY — The city council here will submit an amendment to the federal government on plans for using a downtown revitalization grant.

The council voted unanimously Monday night to ask the federal government for permission to shift $120,000 targeted for purchase of an abandoned warehouse building and instead use it to assemble property for development along West Main and Lake streets.

The issue was tentatively approved two weeks ago in a discussion that saw Councilman Samuel Seidel object to the proposal. Seidel was not present at Monday night's meeting.

Courts-Jail Complex To Dwarf Landmarks

5784

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — When the proposed $23 million courts-jail complex is completed in downtown Salisbury 2½ to three years from now, it will be the tallest building in Wicomico County.

The construction schedule calls for the ground breaking to occur by late summer or early fall in the parking lot adjacent to the Government Office Building and the courthouse.

It will rise some 130 feet above ground level — an estimated 10 stories — and will dwarf such landmarks as the C&P Telephone Co. building, the courthouse clock tower and the One Plaza East office building.

When it is finished, the building will have enough room to house 252 inmates — tripling the legal capacity of the existing lockup on the third floor of the courthouse. It is designed to last at least 75 years.

THE BUILDING will also have three circuit courtrooms and two district courtrooms on the first two floors. Space for future expansion will be available for one additional circuit courtroom and two state-run district courts.

The new building will be connected to the existing Government Office Building by a three-story lobby with a roof which will allow sunlight to filter through. The atrium, according to designing architects John Somers and Edward Todd, could make the the area a popular spot for indoor social gatherings with an outdoor atmosphere.

In addition, the existing courthouse also will be connected to the new building, creating a massive city-county government office complex unlike any in the region.

BELOW THE ground floor will be two underground levels which will accommodate limited-access parking and a maximum-security prisoner transfer area that will enable law enforcement personnel to bring people into the building without coming in contact with the public. One basement level will also house offices for the 911 emergency telephone system and the fire marshal, both isolated and under heavy security.

Over 100 parking places will be eliminated, so building users will have to find spots for their vehicles to the east or the south. No definite plans have been announced, but a second parking garage has been discussed by city and county officials.

Court Street, which runs between the Maude Toulson federal building and the courthouse, will become a pedestrian plaza.

The building's third floor will be for the jail administrative staff and where visitors to the jail will have to go initially for security reasons. The floor will house an infirmary, a library and classroom space.

THE FOURTH floor is devoted entirely to heating, cooling and circulation systems.

Everything above the fourth floor will be restricted-access jail facilities that will be monitored by computer-run elevators and a sophisticated closed-circuit television system. Except for court appearances, prisoners sentenced to serve time in the jail will never leave their assigned floor. Special cubicles will be provided for visitors who will take a special elevator to the inmate levels.

The building will have two banks of elevators — one used strictly for inmate transfers and the other for public movement.

The fifth floor will serve two functions. It will house inmates who qualify for work release programs and women who must be segregated from male prisoners.

Cells will be stacked in a two-tier configuration on this floor and the one above it, which will be exclusively for men.

The seventh floor will have only one level of cells designed to handle inmates who require maximum security conditions.

ABOVE THE three inmate floors will be space devoted to indoor and outdoor facilities prescribed by federal and state laws.

While the building might give an outward appearance of opulence, the architects emphasize the Spartan-like cells will contain only one bunk bed and restroom facilities.

"There're no frills," said Somers. "The cost reflects a need to provide optimum security."

SCALE MODEL. Architect John Somers, left, explains features in a model of the courts-jail building he helped designed for construction in downtown Salisbury. Listening to Somers' presentation Tuesday are Wicomico County Council members, from left, John Morris, Bruce Ruark and Henry Parker. Gov. Harry Hughes signed a bill Tuesday giving Wicomico County a total of $8 million in state aid for the $23 million project. (Times Photo by Bill Robinson)

5/16/84

City To Flush Water Mains

SALISBURY — The Salisbury public works department will start its semi-annual water main flushing program Monday.

The department will flush the 750-hyrdant system nightly from 8 p.m. until 4 a.m. over a five-night period.

Water users will experience no interruption of service while this activity is in progress. However, officials warn that in some households, water discoloration might be a temporary problem.

Public works officials advise citizens to let tap water run for several minutes until clear water appears to be flowing through the system.

5/19/84

City Flushes Water Mains

SALISBURY — A water main flushing program is under way in Salisbury.

Between 8 p.m. and 4 a.m., fire hydrants are being opened to rid the city's water system of sediment. All 175 hydrants in the city will be flushed by the end of this week.

5/22/84

Main Flushing Underway

The City of Salisbury has had considerable success with its semi-annual water main flushing program in recent years. By a programmed system of flushing all public mains at approximately 750 hydrants, the water distribution system can be effectively cleared of most of the corrosion sediment which would otherwise find its way into the consumer's plumbing fixtures.

To minimize inconvenience, Salisbury's system will be flushed at night — ordinarily between 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. There will be no interruption of service while this is in progress, however, some discoloration of the water supply may be expected. If discoloration occurs, it should clear up quickly and clearing can be facilitated by letting a faucet run for a short while.

Flushing began 8 p.m., Monday, May 21, 1984.

NEW GARDEN. Dr. Peter Crowcroft, director of the Salisbury City Zoo, looks over a new flower garden with representatives of the Wicomico Garden Club, which donated and planted several gardens in the zoo. Shown from left are: Mrs. William Ransdell, chairman of the club's beautification committee; Mrs. Joseph Gunby, past president; Crowcroft; and club member, Mrs. Richard Cole. (Times Photo)

5/23/84

Club Donates, Plants Gardens At Salisbury Zoo

By CINDY ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — A splash of color has been added to the Salisbury City Zoo.

It's in the form of flowering gardens, donated and planted by the Wicomico Garden Club.

The gardens, which are situated at the zoo entrance and in front of the zoo office, were planted recently to honor the late Mrs. Roland Bailey of Hebron, a charter member of the garden club, explained Mrs. William Ransdell, a club member. Mrs. Bailey died a few weeks ago at the age of 96.

Since it was chartered in 1933, the garden club's activities have included a number of beautification projects, including planting trees and flowering plants at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center, the Holly Center, Salisbury State College and the Salisbury City Park, said Mrs. Ransdell, who is also chairman of the club's city beautification committee.

The gardens in the zoo are part of the club's continuing effort to beautify Salisbury, Mrs. Ransdell added.

Mrs. Wade Insley III of Salisbury is the club president.

ABOUT 20 CLUB members worked together to clear space for the gardens and add the flowers. About 150 plants, including azaleas, marigolds and ageratum, were used to create the colorful gardens. Money for the plants was raised by the club.

In the future, the club hopes to expand the gardens at the entrance by planting spring bulbs, Mrs. Ransdell said.

More volunteers are also needed to tend the garden once a week, she added.

Dr. Peter Crowcroft, director of the zoo, said he is delighted with the colorful addition to the park.

"We needed a splash of color in the zoo," he said, adding that many visitors also come to the zoo to enjoy the plant life featured in the naturalistic settings of the animals. "It's additional entertainment for people who visit the zoo."

Zoo To Hold Education Day

5/29/84

SALISBURY — June 4 is officially Zoo Education Day at the Salisbury Zoological Park.

Mayor W. Paul Martin issued the proclamation of support for the program Monday night at the city council session.

On the receiving end was Dr. Peter Crowcroft, the zoo director, and group of volunteers who help with educational programs at the zoo year round.

National Zoo, Aquarium Month

June is National Zoo and Aquarium Month and to get things off to a good start, these kindergarten children from Buckingham Elementary in Berlin are learning about the Salisbury Zoo. Volunteer zoo guide, Mary Bradbury, is explaining the habits of the prairie dog to the children.

5/30/84

Airport To Get New Buildings

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Wicomico Airport will be the site for two new buildings which will be constructed with the help of state grant money approved recently by the Maryland Department of Economic and Community Development.

The Wicomico County Council announced it had received approval for $723,220 worth of loans through the Maryland Industrial Land Act program.

The MILA funds will be used to construct two "inventory" buildings to lure potential tenants to the airport. Although the county applies for the low-interest loans, the firms which move into the buildings will be responsible for repaying the money to the state.

Landfill Restrictions Sought

SALISBURY — Wicomico County Council members have come out in support of a proposal to research the possible addition of restrictions on the use of the county landfill.

County Administrative Director Matthew E. Creamer said recent policy changes in neighboring Sussex and Worcester counties might necessitate the need for Wicomico County to monitor use of the Newland Park landfill.

Sussex initiated a "tipping fee" which must be paid each time that county's landfill is used while Worcester enacted a licensing law to restrict who uses that facility.

Builder Seeks Federal Loan

SALISBURY — Housing developer Milford Twilley has the city council's support in an application for a federally-funded loan which would be used to offset the cost of constructing a new apartment complex on East College Avenue.

The city council Monday night endorsed the application for an estimated $570,000 that will be sought from the Department of Housing and Urban Development by Twilley's firm.

If successful, HUD will loan the city the money, which in turn will loan it to Twilley. Twilley will repay the loan to the city, which can use it for future housing projects.

Mills Eyes Complex Expansion

SALISBURY — The Rev. J. Chappelle Mills may be adding another 30 units of subsidized housing to the Trinity Housing Authority project his church oversees off Lake Street.

The city council Monday night came out with an endorsement of Mills' proposal to apply for funding to expand the 37-unit complex which overlooks Johnson's Pond.

City officials explained to council members the federal government requests input from local governments when such applications are submitted. Council members said the Trinity project, which caters to the elderly on fixed incomes, is providing a valuable service to the community.

6 Named To Downtown Panel

SALISBURY — Six city residents have been appointed to serve on the downtown Historic District Commission.

The city council Monday night OK'd the names of John Van Fossen, Elaine F. Weatherly, Hannah Miller, Wade H. Insley III, Gene Dunn and Rosanne Davis.

The panel sits in review of plans submitted by property owners in the downtown area to make sure that fix-up projects are consistent with the historic atmosphere in the business district.

BANDSTAND GRANT. Brad McKnight presents downtown Salisbury revitalization project manager Philip C. "Pete" Cooper with a $400 check to help offset the cost of constructing a new bandstand at the Plaza Garden. McKnight is president of the Salisbury Downtown (merchants) Association, which put up the donation. The Plaza Garden is next to City Center and is a focal point of many special downtown activities. (Times Photo)

The new look of One Plaza East reflects its long tradition.

ONE PLAZA EAST

A New Look For an Old Landmark

A new street-level facade and the conversion of office areas into condominium office floors are the latest steps taken at One Plaza East on Salisbury's Downtown Plaza.

William J. Ahtes Jr. of Salisbury, chairman of Ahtes Hanna McLaughlin Realtors, has said, "The total area of 5,000 square feet once occupied by Castleberg's Jewelers has been converted into new and larger offices for the real estate firm. The interior was designed by Diane Phillips of Salisbury. The new brick exterior fronting the real estate offices was constructed by Carl J. Williams and Sons, Inc. of Delmar. It closely resembles the earlier look of the building as it was built in 1923 as the Wicomico Hotel."

Ahtes said he believed the conversion of One Plaza East into eight condominium office floors is thought to be a first and the largest of its kind on the Downtown Plaza.

Marketing and management for the office condominiums is handled through Ahtes Hanna McLaughlin Realtors at One Plaza East, P.O. Box 228, Salisbury, Md.

Businesses and professions already a part of One Plaza East are: the law firm of Adkins, Potts and Smethurst, John Hanson Eastern Shore Service Corp., Congressman Roy Dyson's office, Pro-Emp Employment Agency, Mann Insurance Associates, International Business Machines, Stanley D. Kolb and Co., Inc., Bendler Realty, Human Resources Institute, WGMD Broadcasting, Salisbury Inter-Group, Salisbury Wicomico Economic Development, American Soybean Assn., Todd and Associates, Inc., architects, Greater Salisbury Committee, Automatic Data Processing, Dr. Oliver J. Thoms, plastic surgeon, Hall's Tidewater Travel and Ahtes Hanna McLaughlin Realtors.

Hall's Tidewater Travel was the first business to purchase a condominium office in One Plaza East.

"The office space is sold as floors," Ahtes said. "Each floor has its own heat pump, air conditioning and other utilities. At present, the second, third and fourth floors are still available as office condominiums."

On January 1, 1969, Ahtes, George Callis of Salisbury and R. Steve Smethurst Jr. of Eden, Md., who formed Peninsula Properties, Inc., arranged to purchase the over 60,000 square foot Wicomico Hotel. It was a time after the hotel had outlived its usefulness as the newer motels became more convenient. The three businessmen felt there was a present and future need for a large office building in Downtown Salisbury.

At that time major renovations included solar glass windows, elevator modernization and a second elevator added and conversion of electric heat and air conditioning. An architectural firm surveyed the building during the 1969 purchase and prnounced it as structurally sound as the day it was built.

Today, some 60 years after the tallest building in Salisbury was constructed, it is again a landmark in the growth and future of Salisbury's Downtown Plaza.

Pending Waste Agreement May Be Milestone

5/23/84

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The pending agreement between the City of Salisbury and Wicomico County to build a septic waste disposal plant stands to become a milestone in local government relations. It could also have a major impact on the local economy.

If the project is developed, citizens could be spared from paying higher taxes, an existing health problem will be eliminated, rural housing development can continue uninterrupted, a major odor problem for city residents likely will be solved and the Chesapeake Bay cleanup program will receive a major boost.

Last week, the Salisbury City Council OK'd the design of a small processing facility which would be constructed adjacent to the city-owned sewage treatment plant on Marine Road.

By mid-summer, elected officials are expected to finalize a written agreement which will enable Wicomico County to close the Blackwater lagoon west of Delmar, where septic waste is dumped under the supervision of the county public works department. The new processing plant will solve a major waste disposal problem that has existed for more than a decade and caused concern among environmental health experts.

THE COUNTY also has indicated a willingness to pay the local share for new equipment needed by the city sewer plant so grease and grit which moves through the municipal sewer system can be properly processed. Grease accumulation is blamed for severe odor problems at the plant recently.

All told, the county may be putting up between $80,000 and $100,000 as the local share for some $1 million worth of proposed improvements to waste disposal facilities.

Over the years, the city and county failed several times to negotiate a joint venture which would allow the county to use the city's sewage treatment plant. Those negotiations broke down due to disagreements over financing and future responsibility of maintenance and operation.

However, changes in environmental laws over the years put pressure on local governments to move more quickly in making waste disposal methods comply with new standards.

LAST FALL, serious negotiations between the city and county began again.

Here's how the agreement is shaping up.

The county believes it can save several million dollars by agreeing to work with the city in building a septic waste pretreatment plant. The processed liquid would be treated a second time in the city's sewer plant while a solid waste commonly known as "sludge" would be also be filtered off.

The project's total cost is expected to be just under $500,000, with the county expected to put up around $20,000.

The septic waste treatment plant would be closely supervised by the city's public works department. Annual licensing and pay-per-visit tipping fees paid by waste haulers would cover the cost of upkeep and operations.

If such an agreement fails to materialize, the county faces the possibility of spending a substantial amount of money for a separate septic waste disposal system of its own. Joint agreements with several of the county's smaller communities which have sewer systems were ruled out as too costly.

MATTHEW E. Creamer, Wicomico County's administrative director, said state health officials support the pretreatment plant being proposed by the city and county.

A second phase of the agreement involves a proposal by the county to provide $59,000 as the local share for $470,00 worth of equipment the city needs installed in its sewer plant to handle grease byproducts from local food processing industries.

Officials in both local governments say the county's offer to provide the city with the capital needed for the degreaser system was a key factor in the negotiations.

"It's another opportunity for the city and the county to work together at solving some problems of mutual interest to both governments," Creamer said.

Shipyard Manager Defends Operation

6/15/84

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The manager of Chesapeake Shipbuilding Inc. here says a recent letter to the editor of *The Daily Times* contained erroneous information about the firm.

The letter was written by an unidentified shipyard worker.

Anthony Severn Jr. said Thursday he accepted an invitation to address a luncheon meeting of the Salisbury Wicomico Economic Development organization to "set the record straight" about his employer's operation.

Severn acknowledged Chesapeake is aware it has an image problem in Salisbury but attributed it to an owner who emphasizes that privacy about business dealings is essential to a successful operation.

"We may not be the heart and soul of Salisbury, but we're slowly becoming part of the community," he said.

SEVERN said the company has tripled its payroll in the last two years, helped local governments solve problems, such as fixing a leaky fire boat and designing a new ferry for Whitehaven as well as spending a substantial sum of money on waterfront improvements.

On a charge the City of Salisbury gave Chesapeake money for a bulkheading, Severn told SWED members the $450,000 spent on shoreline stabilization was part of a federal riverfront redevelopment grant linked to projections the money would help a business provide needed employment.

Furthermore, Severn said his firm has spent nearly a half-million dollars of its own money on improvements to supplement the bulkheading construction.

"Without that, we wouldn't be able to operate our business," Severn said of his firm's investment.

Severn said some 130 people are currently working on the shipyard site just off Fitzwater Street, including 40 or so subcontractors who are hired for short-term work to do special jobs on the small cruise ships.

SEVERN said the firm is growing so fast it has found a need to hire experienced shipbuilders. However, attempts to interview veteran shipyard workers in the Baltimore and Norfolk areas proved unsuccessful because those candidates either expected union-scale wages or had poor work records, Severn said.

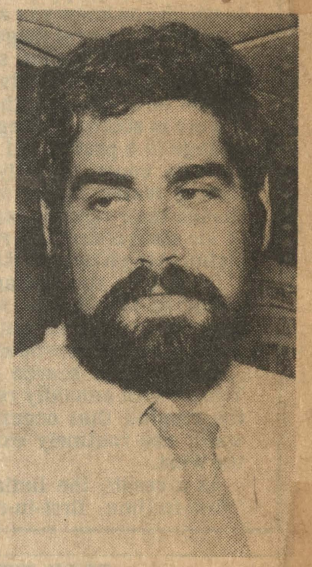
As a result, Severn said Chesapeake recently hired five new employees who lost their jobs at an Alabama shipyard. He said those workers were experienced and are willing to accept the non-union wages the firm offers.

He said those new workers receive an average wage of $6.22 an hour. Employees who have been with the firm for at least a year are earning an average of $6.44, and workers with three years experience are averaging $7.50.

Chesapeake receive 160 applications for the five job openings, Severn said.

On alleged safety problems, Severn said the latest Occupational Safety and Health Administration inspection identified just five violations, which he termed minor.

"A shipyard is a dangerous place to work," Severn said. "I was very pleased the report was that favorable."



Anthony Severn

Letter To The Editor

6/27/84

A Matter Of Pride

Editor Of The Times:

I would like the City of Salisbury and its citizens to understand how the employees of the Chesapeake Shipyard feel. The article that was published recently in *The Daily Times* said the Savannah had been built with "pride" by the men and women of the yard.

In my opinion and in the opinion of other workers in the yard, that statement is just not true. All of the employees at the yard are skilled workers and have taken pride in the work done but taking this pride becomes difficult when the average employee makes only a little over the minimum wage.

The City of Salisbury gave the shipyard thousands of dollars to repair the bulkheading along the shore.

This money was given to it, so as to create more jobs for the people of Salisbury. The shipyard has sent someone to Alabama to take applications and hire people to work for the shipyard here. Not only are they hiring people from another state, they are paying them to move to Salisbury.

These new employees are also going to be started off making better hourly wages than those employees that have been working in the yard for two or three years.

The supervisor of all the employees at the shipyard has in the past promised the employees more money and insurance benefits. He also promised that the new employees from Alabama would not be making more money than those already employed. He has also promised better working conditions as well as hundreds of other things. As of yet nothing has been done to fulfill these promises.

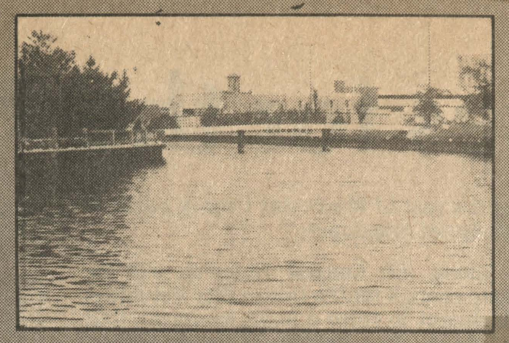
OSHA, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration came to the shipyard and the next day a big safety meeting was held.

I would like the public to realize that the workers there do not intend to take pride in their work anymore.

Name Withheld
Upon Request

One of Salisbury's chief attractions historically has been its position on the banks of the Wicomico River. Here, the river flows through Riverwalk Park, creating a lovely environment for downtown businesses and a cool spot in the shade for the travel-weary tourist.

Staff photo by Maureen McNeill



An Embarrassment To The City

Advertiser - 6/16/84

By MAUREEN McNEILL
Editor

The sharp contrast between the efforts to beautify the City of Salisbury and its Riverwalk Park and the garbage that clutters the river itself is nothing less than an embarassment.

Once again this past weekend, we were invited downtown to enjoy the Park. Music lovers at "Shore Jazz '84," like those who took part in the Salisbury Festival Block Party, strolled along the beautifully landscaped Riverwalk — beautiful, that is, until one takes a glance over the rail and sees the scum and litter that coat the water's surface.

So much has been done to revitalize our city. And the positive impression this makes on our increasing numbers of visitors will benefit us for years to come.

Clearly, the problem will not go away without some action from the people of Salisbury. The flow of the Wicomico brings much of the river's debris to rest at this spot and efforts to discourage littering seem to have had little effect. But we do have a resource that could be put to use here.

Couldn't the City employ one of the youth in the Summer Jobs for Youth program to clean the river? Armed with a net and a small boat, a young boy or girl could make the task a part-time summer job.

And just think of what we'd be getting in the bargain. A young employee would have a chance to learn about the importance of caring for our natural resources.

And we would finally have a truly attractive Riverwalk Park.

TUNING IN. Part of a fluctuating crowd estimated at over 1,000 during the course of the day gather in and around a tent set up in Salisbury's Riverwalk Park Sunday for a jazz festival sponsored by the Salisbury-Wicomico Arts Council. The festival is expected to become an annual affair.

JAZZ STARS. From left, guitar greats Charlie Byrd and Herb Ellis are joined by guitarist Paul Wingo of Cambridge for a set during the eight-hour "Shore Jazz '84" held at Riverwalk Park in Salisbury Sunday. Bassist Joe Byrd, Charlie Byrd's brother, plays behind them.

Salisbury City Council To Amend Garbage Can Law

5/29/84

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — One of the most controversial passages in the City of Salisbury's current "housing code" is a provision which states that garbage cans emptied by city workers each week cannot exceed a 20-gallon capacity.

City council members have been hearing complaints about that restriction in the last few months and Monday night they introduced an ordinance that would give citizens some leeway in choosing the size and style of their garbage disposal containers.

The key phrase in the proposed ordinance says "lightweight plastic or rubberized containers may be used provided that their capacity shall not exceed 32 gallons."

City public works director Kenneth M. Haensler said research showed the larger, plastic or rubber containers were nearly equal in weight in comparison with a 20-gallon can when both were filled with household refuse.

Even though he supports the option of using a larger, lighter container, Haensler said his personal view is that citizens should use the smaller metal cans.

Haensler said the plastic or rubber containers tend to blow away after being emptied on a windy day.

That prompted Mayor W. Paul Martin to observe that if the problem arises, citizens would be advised to wait for a replacement to "blow their way."

Elected officials found themselves the subject of intensive lobbying by some taxpayers after an amended housing code was passed last year and the city council said it was prepared to order a crackdown on citizens who do not dispose of their garbage correctly. June has been targeted as the month the crackdown will get under way.

Some who went to council members with their complaints noted many stores carry a full line of the larger, lighter containers with snap-tight sealed lids at an affordable price.

City council members agreed the wording in the existing code could be interpreted as too restrictive and ordered an amendment be prepared.

Officials noted the law sets only a maximum container size for individual residences. Some of the elderly have complained they are not strong enough to carry the large containers to the curb for the weekly pick-up.

Patrick J. Fennell, the city's executive secretary, found support among council members when he said very small cans are permitted under the current code and could be used by those who anticipate a problem with lifting.

The amendment is expected to pass on second reading June 11, when it will be brought up for a final vote.

City agencies have been alerted to hand out fines to citizens who do not comply with trash can laws. The only refuse which can be bagged are lawn and tree clippings, the code says.

Jazz Festival Draws Big Crowd To Salisbury

6/4/84

By TOM LEONARD
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Sunday's first-ever jazz festival here will definitely not be the last, according to Salisbury-Wicomico Arts Council director Roy S. Perdue.

Perdue said he was "very pleased" with the large turnout of jazz lovers who bought all but less than 50 of the 600 available $10 seats which had been set up under a tent in Riverwalk Park for the day-long eight-hour festival.

Perdue guessed that as many as 500 or 600 more opted to sit or lie on the grass in the waterfront park where they could still hear the music but not see internationally known guitarists Herb Ellis and Charlie Byrd and four Lower Shore groups who performed with them.

Billed as "Shore Jazz '84," the festival was sponsored by the arts council to kick off the organization's annual membership drive. Perdue said it served to meet one of the arts council's most important goals — to provide quality arts offerings not already available in the area.

"People here are becoming much more aware," said Perdue. "The audiences are there." He said the jazz festival brought many new faces to a Lower Shore arts event. "You just have to ignite the spark."

Advertising in the Baltimore, Washington, and upper Delaware areas helped draw an estimated 20 percent of the paying crowd from neighboring states which included Virginia and Pennsylvania, but most came from the Shore.

Some jazz enthusiasts remained seated for the entire noon to 8 p.m. program, said Perdue. Others strolled outside the tent between performances, soaking up the sun or sampling specialty food and drink items which included cakes and other deserts, wine and other beverages.

Each group was well received but many jazz lovers came to see Byrd and his Charlie Byrd Trio and the equally famous Ellis. They were not disappointed.

Byrd and Ellis traded the spotlight in their two joint performances, prompting loud bursts of applause at the end of each number. Neither seemed to mind the sound of an occasional ambulance and even one horn-blowing wedding procession from busy Route 13 nearby.

Peforming with the headliners were local artists the John Lamkin Septet, the Earl Brown Quartet, George Fitzgerald with the Paul Wingo Group, and the Len Gray Big Band, which closed out the festival.

Perdue said next year's second jazz festival may be held in the same location but he predicted it would "definitely outgrow this" in the future.

Perdue said there's a chance the festival will become a regular annual stop for nationally known jazz artists and "has great potential to bring people here." By all accounts, Sunday was a good start.

Garbage Can Law Amended

SALISBURY — The city's controversial garbage can law has been amended.

The city council here Monday night adopted an ordinance which permits citizens to use 32-gallon plastic or rubberized containers. Before the change was made, the housing code said garbage cans could not be any larger than 20 gallons.

Moments after the new measure was enacted, city council President Norman H. Conway said "this is a law where we do expect compliance."

Conway said citizens who have recently received "friendly" warnings about their use of improper garbage cans can expect to be fined $25 for each violation in the coming weeks if the problem is not corrected.

The size of a refuse can became a campaign issue in March when city council candidates found citizens were upset at the stringent rules contained in the recently amended housing code.1

The complaints prompted the council to order an amendment prepared by the public works department.

Conway said the city is prepared to enforce the code and intends to crack down on violators.

The garbage can law is viewed by most city elected officials as a key piece of legislation that will promote city-wide cleanliness and improve efficiency of the garbage pickup service.

6/12/84

Adviser To Seek Grant For City

6/5/84

SALISBURY — The city council here has authorized a consultant to begin work on an application for federal funding which will be used to upgrade the municipal water and sewer system

The Gannett-Fleming firm will be paid $2,180 to prepare the application this summer. The city stands to get 75 percent federal aid if the application is processed before Oct. 1. After that date, the federal government will provide only 55 percent of the total cost of such projects.

MONEY DONATED. Howard Landon, left, of the Assateague Mobile Sportsman Association, presents a check for $500 to Richard Beals, executive director of the Lower Shore Sheltered Workshop in Salisbury. The money was raised through the AMSA's Expo held recently in Ocean City. The funds will be used to buy equipment for the workshop's lawnmower repair service. (Times Photo)

RETIREE SALUTE. Salisbury City Councilman S. Norman Holland Jr., left, presents John C. Marshall with a certificate recognizing Marshall's 16 years of service to the city's public works department. Marshall was given the momento at a retirement party co-worker threw for him recently. With Marshall is his wife Edna, also a city government employee. (Times Photo) 6/18/84

THE DAILY TIMES

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PAGE 4 Salisbury, Md. Wed., June 13, 1984

Lean Budget

There was good news and bad news at city hall Monday night.

The good news is the Salisbury tax rate will remain at $1.50 for another year. The bad news is that next year, taxes are almost certain to go up.

After approving Mayor W. Paul Martin's $11 million budget, councilmen warned they are finding it difficult to provide adequate services with limited revenues. The tax rate has remained the same since 1972.

Councilmen found there was no fat in Martin's budget, but they did manage to give residential water-sewer customers a break by rejecting a proposed 6 percent increase in water-sewer bills.

Residents who use no more than 8,000 gallons of water every three months will continue to pay the minimum $15.38 quarterly; those who use more than 8,000 gallons, will pay 6 percent more for each 1,000 gallons over the minimum.

Utility systems are expensive to maintain and the council believes the water-sewer account should be self-supporting, although they wisely have been setting aside income for emergencies.

Last year, the council said the city was facing the prospect of overhauling its utility system. That warning was repeated Monday night.

Martin's budget provides also for a $547,200 account created to provide funds for the purchase of property in the downtown area if additional parking is needed. More parking space may be needed when Wicomico County builds its new courts-jail complex and the state approves construction of a new regional state office building.

Anticipating need is an essential part of fiscal responsibility.

The new city budget is lean, but taxpayers should find it easy to live with.

New Exhibit Will Open On June 11

SALISBURY — Frank Perdue, chairman of the board of Perdue Farms Inc., and Salisbury Mayor W. Paul Martin will officiate at the opening of a new $26,000 exhibit of South American monkeys in the Salisbury Zoo June 11 at 10:30 a.m.

The outdoor cage was built by zoo and other city employees with funds from Perdue Inc., the City of Salisbury, and the Salisbury Zoo Commission Inc.

A grant was also received from the Department of Energy for the building of a solar-heated house for the animals in cold weather.

The animals to be displayed June 11 are four long-haired spider monkeys, native to the jungles of Peru.

Spider monkeys are the acrobats of the monkey tribe, having a long prehensile tail which serves for balance and as a fifth hand, according to Peter Crowcroft, Zoo director.

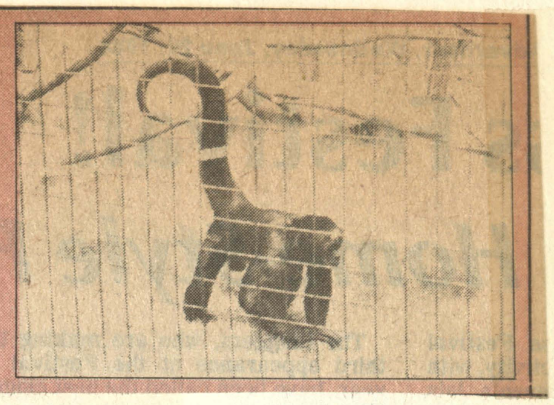
Their cage is provided with trees and ropes.

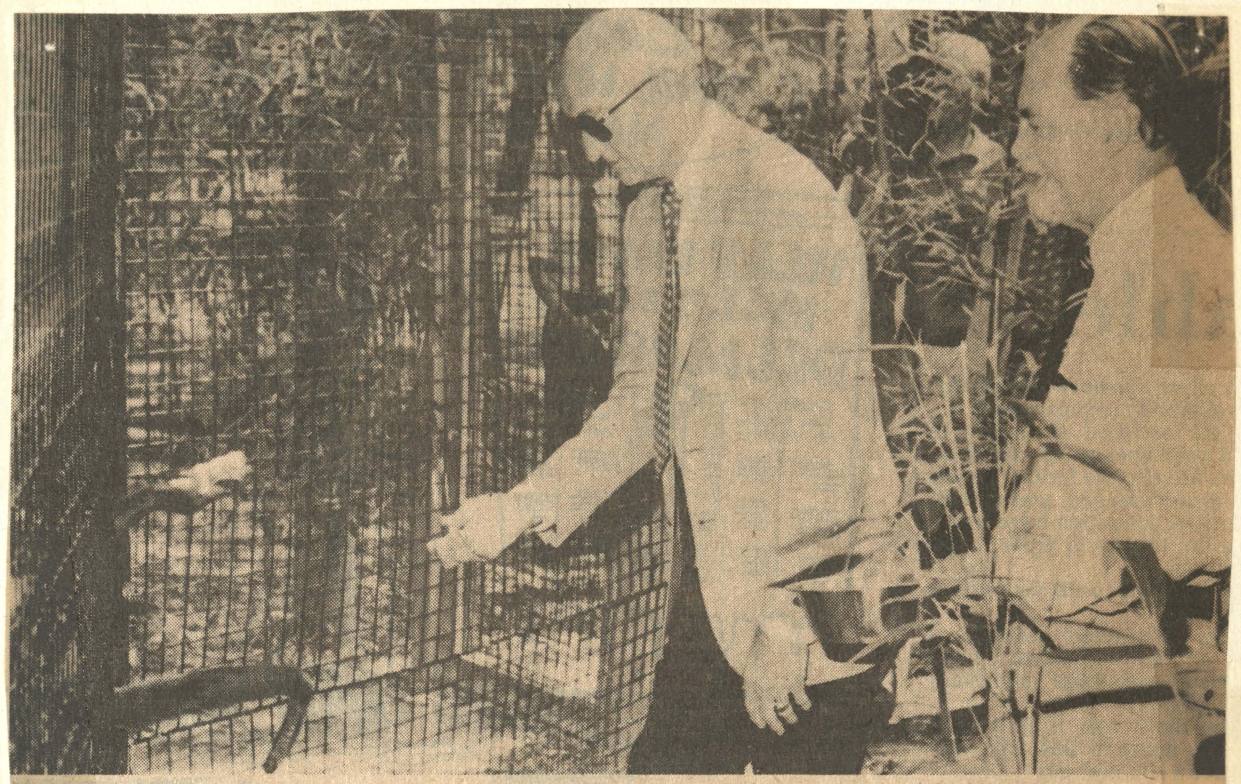
The Zoo is already noted for the excellence of its South American displays, he said. The zoo is open every day from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

6/3/84

NEW ARRIVAL. The spider monkeys have arrived and are in their new home in Salisbury's Zoological Park. As part of the South American exhibit, the monkeys began entertaining zoo visitors just last week.

6/20/84





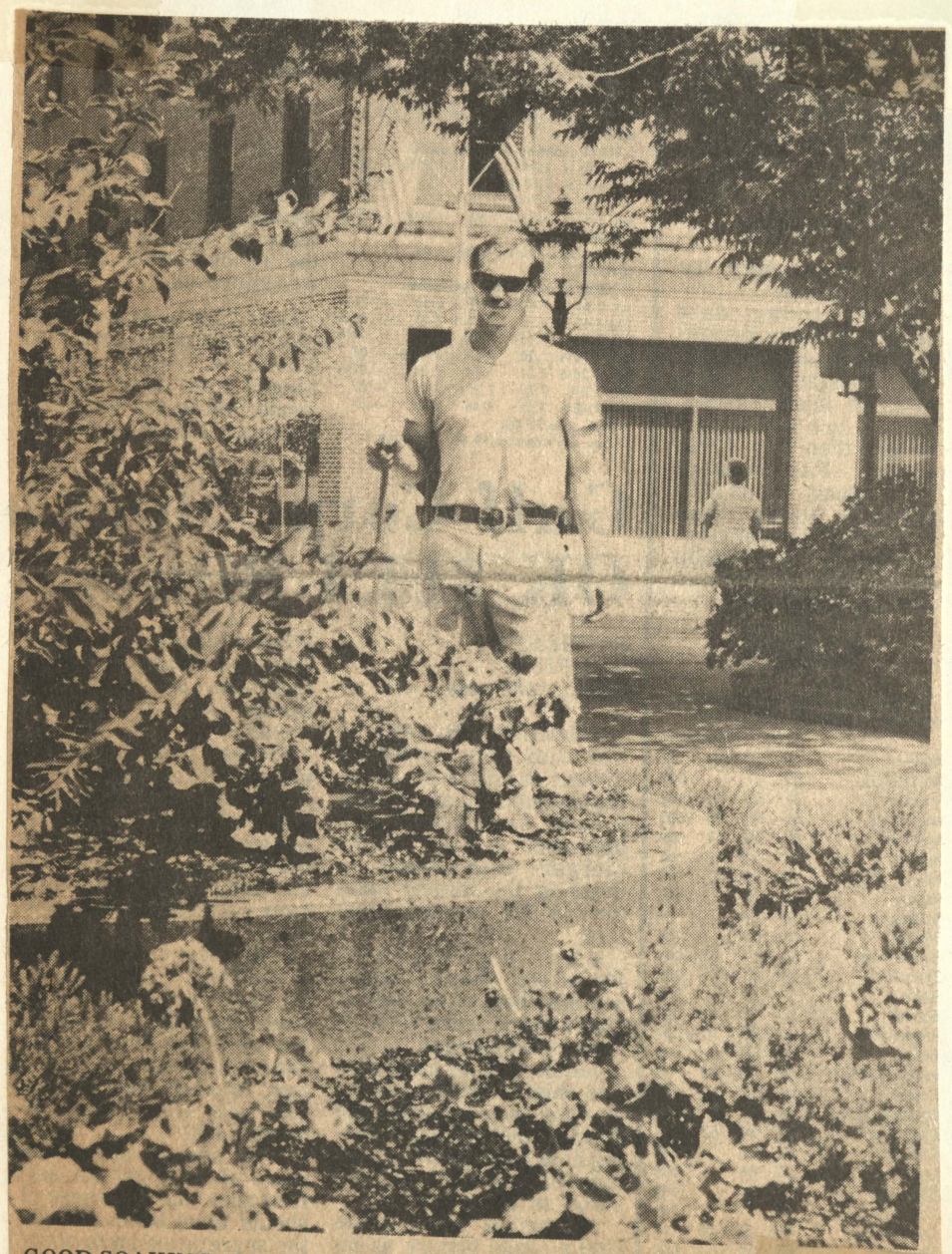
MONKEYS ON EXHIBIT. Frank Perdue, left, President of Perdue Inc., tempts a spider monkey with food as Peter Crowcroft, director of the Salisbury Zoo, watches. Perdue donated $5,000 toward the purchase of one male and three female monkeys and the cost of the new monkey exhibit at the zoo. Crowcroft said the monkey species acquired by the zoo are rare and will be on exhibit year-round. The exhibit was officially opened on Monday with Perdue and Salisbury Mayor W. Paul Martin opening the exhibit. (Times Photo)

6/12/84

AFTERNOON STROLL. These four children stroll hand in hand down a path in the Salisbury City Park. From left, they are: David Bennett, 5, and his 3-year-old brother Bobby, sons of Lydia Bennett of Vienna and Steve Bennett of Virginia, and Amy Ellingsworth, 3, and her 2-year-old sister, Joy, daughter of Ellen Ellingsworth of Mardela Springs and Ken Ellingsworth of Bridgeville. (Times Photo by Cindy Robinson)

6/28/84

PICNIC DANCERS. Clients of the Lower Shore Sheltered Workshop in Salisbury dance during the workshop's 10th annual picnic held this week in the Salisbury City Park. Food for the event was donated by Johnny and Sammy's Restaurant in Salisbury. The restaurant has provided the refreshments at each annual picnic for the past decade. (Times Photo) 7/7/84



GOOD SOAKING. City of Salisbury forester Steve Eccleston sprays water on an arrangement of geraniums on the Downtown Plaza. Eccleston said gardeners should give their plants plenty of water, since the area has not had rain in nearly three weeks. (Times Photo by Bill Robinson) 6/16/84

Salisbury News and Advertiser, Wednesday, July 11, 1984 — 5

Zoo Docents Have Ten-Year Tradition

Ten years ago, visits to the Salisbury Zoo began to become more informative and alot more fun.

In 1974 five members of the Salisbury Newcomers' Club formed a Committee called the Zoo Educators Taking Action ('ZETA'). The members were Sandy Erskine, Gail Jerardi, Alice Massey, Laura McCray, and Janine Motsko. The proceeds of the 1974 Newcomers Club Charity Ball funded the first tour guide booklet for the zoo.

Having an organized educational program supplied the final requirement needed for a Grade One rating by the Humane Society of the U.S.. The Salisbury Zoo is still the only zoo in Maryland with the Humane Society's top rating. It was also a necessary development for accreditation by the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums.

Since 1974, there has been continuity and development of the zoo's educational program through the dedication of a group of volunteers which grew out of the original committee. In 1978, the name of the group was changed to the Salisbury Zoo Education Committee, and the guides adopted the term 'docents' which is normally used for such volunteers in North American zoos. The services offered comprise guided tours for school classes and other groups (the Wicomico County School Board regularly schedules zoo visits by all Grade 2 and Grade 4 students); slide presentations; window displays at the zoo, and demonstrations of specimens on 'Touch 'n' Tell' tables in the warmer months.

Over the last decade, the docents have guided more than 75,000 visitors through the zoo. As well as Wicomico school groups, there are school classes from all parts of Delmarva, from eastern Maryland, Dover, and Virginia.

School visits are made more effective by sending pre-visit material to teachers; slides for projection, photographs of animals in the zoo; and notes on the distribution and habits of the animals. The cost of this and other materials is met by $5 donations from most visiting groups, so the service is provided at no cost to the City.

A luncheon held on June 4 was the annual event hosted by the Zoo Commission as a "Thank You", to the ladies and gentlemen of the Education Committee. It has special significance this year, being the tenth birthday of the organization. Mrs. Janice Davis, the present Chairperson of the Zoo Education Committee welcomed Elizabeth Cottingham to the celebration. In addition, Mayor W. Paul Martin and the Salisbury City Council recognized the great value to the city of the volunteers' services by proclaiming the day of June 4, 1984, as 'Zoo Education Day.'

VOL. 117, NO. 28, JUNE 27, 1984 SERVING THE GREATER SALISBURY AREA SINCE 1867 ROUTE 13 NORTH NEAR THE MONUMENT

NEW BOAT DOCKS:

You'll Soon Be Able to Tie Up At Riverwalk Park!

This photo was taken from the site of the new boat dock. The South Division Street bridge, as well as proposed landscaping, should provide an attractive backdrop to this addition to the Riverwalk Park area.

By MAUREEN McNEILL
Editor

In the latest efforts to revitalize the downtown area, construction will begin this week on a boat dock for Riverwalk Park. Funds for the project are coming from the people who will enjoy it most: boaters.

Construction is beginning on Phase I of a plan to build a boat dock and park area on the banks of the east prong of the Wicomico River, just south of the South Division Street bridge. The dock is designed to handle small boats and will be ready for use by the end of next month, according to Matt Aydelotte, of the Salisbury Department of Public Works.

The project is being made possible by a State Waterway Improvement Funds grant for $25,000. Although $25,000 doesn't stretch very far when marine construction is involved, it should cover Phase I of the plan. Phase I includes the bulkheading of a section of the riverfront, as well as construction of the pier. Funds for Phase II have already been approved as a result of a successful application for Waterway Improvement Funds for Fiscal '84.

The money for this project and others like it is generated not by all taxpayers, but by boaters. The State's title tax on newly purchased boats, as well as the annual registration tax, provides the capital for the Waterway Improvement Fund.

According to Aydelotte, Phase II would cover the extension of the bulkhead along the shoreline. In September of this year, the City will file an application for the same grant for Fiscal '85. Phase III of the project calls for still more bulkheading and the addition of a floating dock and a gangway connecting it to the pier. Finally, it is hoped that Project Open Space funds could be allocated to provide for a small park at the site.

The boat dock was first recommended by the team from the American Institute of Architects who visited Salisbury in the Regional Urban Design Assistance Team (R/UDAT) study conducted in May, 1980. Local architects developed the ideas set down in the R/UDAT study and proposed the boat dock that will begin to take shape this summer.

The original design calls for a dock with a small park. Unlike the City Public Landing, this will be a modest facility, with no ramp, intended for small craft, such as canoes and rowboats, only. There are no plans as yet for a paddle boat concession, such as the one in Salisbury City Park, but that possibility has not been ruled out.

The park will include a small open-sided shelter by the pier. Aydelotte explained that the posts for the pier that are being installed at this stage will be tall enough to accomodate a roof in later construction. In addition, a small, eight-car parking lot is planned for the site.

Funds To Be Sought For City Project

7/24/84

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Residents of the Newton-Camden area have the city's support for nearly $800,000 worth of proposed street improvements they say are badly needed in their neighborhood.

The city council Monday night approved a lengthy checklist of capital improvement projects to be included in an application for a federal grant the city has been invited to compete for.

The Newton-Camden Neighborhood Association had proposed creation of a $100,000 revolving fund it wanted for acquisition, rehabilitation and resale of rundown residential properties.

But city council members said such a program was too ambitious and would require more extensive planning to assure its success. Council members indicated they supported the concept of the proposal and would like to see a future federal grant program used for such a program city-wide.

Several neighborhood residents criticized the council for its failure to follow through on development of a promised playground for the neighborhood after the city acquired an L-shaped lot on the corner of Newton and Light streets nearly two years ago.

Council members reacted with surprise when told the public works department had done nothing to prepare the lot for development. Council President Norman H. Conway assured listeners in the audience that the lot would be cleaned up by city forces for limited use by children before the summer of 1984 is over.

Public works director Kenneth M. Haensler said his capital improvements proposal for the neighborhood included plans for development of the playground. The playground's estimated cost is $17,400.

Haensler's plan, which was ultimately supported by the council, also calls for extensive water and sewer pipe maintenance work, street reconstruction and replacement of concrete sidewalks, curbs and gutters.

The council was pressed to vote on the proposal Monday night because a deadline to apply for federal aid to do the work is early August.

Identical grants have been acquired by the city in recent years for street rehabilitation in the East Church Street neighborhood and the Westside neighborhood in the vicinity of Delaware Avenue.

News In Brief

Council Almost Doesn't Meet

6/26/84

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council almost didn't have a meeting Monday night.

Councilwoman Martha Graham is at home recuperating from surgery. Councilman Samuel W. Seidel was out with a flu-like illness. And Council Vice President Robert A. Powell had a conflicting appointment.

However, when it appeared that a quorum would be lacking, a call was made to Powell and he came to the meeting.

Council President Norman H. Conway, who may hold the council attendance record, presided over the brief session. Conway says he has missed "no more than three meetings" since being elected to the council in 1974. One absence was due to a death in the family.

"It was one of the shortest meetings we have had in three years. It lasted only 45 minutes," said Conway. For the most part, it was routine, he said.

RETIRES. Salisbury City Councilman S. Norman Holland Jr., left, presents a service award to Franklin E. "Buck" Joseph, who is retiring from city service after 16 years. Holland presented the award on behalf of the city at recent ceremonies in the City Service Center. Joseph, a Salisburian, worked at the wastewater treatment plant. He retired today.

7/1/84

FROM SALISBURY. The National Aquarium in Baltimore celebrated the second birthday this week of Charlie, a two-toed sloth on breeding loan from the Salisbury Zoo. In honor of his birthday, Charlie was released into his new home, the Aquarium's lush, 64-foot-high Amazon rain forest exhibit, and introduced to his new companion, Rapunzel, the Aquarium's female, two-toed sloth.

State Will Pay For Stoplight

SALISBURY — The Maryland Department of Transportation has agreed to pay all installation costs for a stoplight planned at the accident-prone intersection of Mt. Hermon Road and Beaglin Park Drive near here.

Highway District Engineer James W. Magill has written to Wicomico County Council attorney Sheldon B. Seidel informing him that, after review, the state has decided to void a cost-sharing agreement in which the county would have had to pay for a portion of the installation.

Wicomico County Administrative Director Matthew E. Creamer passed the good news to county council members at their regular meeting this week.

6/21/84

Progress '86— State Of Th

Salisbury Prepares For A

2/18/86

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Taking the future into consideration, this city is already starting to do some belt-tightening as a result of anticipated cuts this year in federal revenue sharing funds.

However, unlike other cities, which may suffer drastic cutbacks in services, the outlook for Salisbury may not be so grim, according to Mayor W. Paul Martin.

Martin predicts the city will see another sizable increase in its assessable tax base for fiscal 1986 — at least as much as the $10 million increase in fiscal 1985 — due to substantial residential, industrial and commercial growth over the past year.

But he said the $500,000 the city will lose if federal revenue sharing is eliminated will still put pressure on the 1986 budget, and could mean some changes.

ALREADY MARTIN has placed a "hiring freeze" on the city's departments under which new personnel cannot be hired without his direct permission, and additional positions will not be created.

In addition, he said he has begun to look for more efficient ways to operate the city, such as "streamlining" departments in which positions — not personnel — can be eliminated.

"We don't want to let anyone go, but we're utilizing their time better," he said. "Those already on the job will be able to do more city operations, and we won't have to pay for more jobs."

He said he hopes the city will not have to reduce any services or reduce the number of personnel it employs as a result of the federal revenue sharing cuts, but that some capital improvements projects may be delayed. "The very last thing I'll ever do is cut back on services," Martin said.

One project that will move along as quickly as possible, however, is the downtown Riverfronts revitalization project, the total construction cost of which has been estimated at $45 million.

Currently, the project is a few months behind schedule because the developer, Robert A. Fox of Fox Limited Partnership in Columbia, Md., has not obtained financing for the first phase of the planned seven-phase revitalization.

THE CITY council is hoping Fox will receive financing soon so construction can get under way. One part of the project has already been completed, however — the city's new marina, which will be the only portion owned and run by the city, but will be incorporated into Fox' overall plan.

The first phase of the project as proposed will include two mall-type buildings, one a small version of Baltimore's Harborplace with a restaurant and several shops, and the other to be a marketplace with shops and produce.

Much growth is expected to come as a result of the project. Martin said the first phase and the marina together should create 100 to 150 jobs for the city, not including cpnstruction work.

The remaining phases, planned to get under way in the next five to seven years, include the possible construction of an office building, a hotel, a townhouse complex, a retail district and a performing stage, although the plans are still in the works, according to Martin.

Aside from the Riverfronts project, a new state office building has been planned in the downtown area. State offices are currently in various locations around the city.

Martin said about 300 workers will be brought to the new offices, and the new building "will bring a lot of people downtown who are not now coming in."

OTHER NEW construction expected to begin during the next year includes a motel to be built on Route 13 North; two shopping centers, one proposed for Route 50 East and the other on Route 13 North; and a medical center on Riverside Drive, Martin said.

The downtown plaza may see some gradual changes over the next few years, according to

Salisbury's Downtown Plaza

"We don't want to let anyone go, but we're utilizing their time better. Those already on the job will be able to do more city operations, and we won't have to pay for more jobs."

Mayor W. Paul Martin

Wor-Wic

SALISBURY — Surveying local businesses, listening to their needs and translating those needs into relevant training opportunities — that's what Wor-Wic Tech Community College does to fulfill its mission of "training local people for local jobs."

"Rapid technological advances in the modern office have created the need for us to move toward the addition of computer equipment to train today's secreataries," said

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Wicomico Has Histo

By RICHARD W. COOPER 2/28/86

SALISBURY — Wicomico County's venerable — and ailing — Courthouse has had a great deal of coverage and exposure in the news media in the last several weeks.

It age has been mentioned on two recent occasions, once in the Feb. 19 *Daily Times*, where it was described as "the 118-year-old building ..." A week or so back it was mentioned in another news account that it dated back in 1867, the year of the formation of Wicomico County from portions of Somerset and Worcester counties. In each instance the dates were about 10 years off.

The misunderstanding of the exact date of its construction can be excused inasmuch as there is no visible indication anywhere on the building giving the date of construction. It probably holds the unique distinction of being the only building of a public nature in Maryland without a "cornerstone," with the usual facts about the date of its erection.

Moreover there is an engraved plaque at the front entrance that spells out the names of the five county commissioners, the architect and the contractor who were responsible for its being built, but no mention of the year.

Listed on the Inventory of Historic Sites in Wicomico County, prepared by the Maryland Historical Trust, the date of its construction is 1878, describing it briefly as "...in the Victorian Gothic style ... constructed of dark red, bricks with narrow dark mortar joints above the granite basement.

A DECORATIVE effect is achieved with the use of black brick panels set in saw-tooth pattern. On the two corners of the facade are towers, one with a square bell cote, the other with a weathervane.

"A more modern addition was built onto the back of the building..."

Attached is an engraving done in the 1890s showing the front and north side of the courthouse, with the jail house barely visible in the back toward the post office.

The jail was torn down when the addition was made to the courthouse in the late 1930s; the old jail had the rather jaunty and colorful name — the "Red Bird."

As part of the new addition, the jail was placed on the top floor and was immediately spoken of as the "Penthouse" partly because of its improvement over the old Red Bird and its then modern facilities.

THE ENGRAVING also shows that there was no clock in the tower, although there was a place left for one. It was a number of years before a proper "town clock" was installed.

In doing research about this period of local history, I have traced how St. Peter's Episcopal Church had a bell that had been recast after it had been a victim of the Great Salisbury Fire of 1886; unfortunately the church people were not able to afford a tower to place the bell in.

A working compromise was made whereby the church would let its bell be used in the courhouse tower in conjunction with a clock that was provided mainly by public donations.

Later St. Peter's found the means to build its present tower, but no move was ever made to return their bell, leaving it to ring out the passing hours for the community.

Because of its closeness to the old Wicomico Hotel that functioned for many years before the change-over to One Plaza East, the nightly tolling of the hours caused disturbance to the guests at the hotel. To soothe their sensitivities, the clock was re-geared to skip the nocturnal hours of 10 p.m. through 6 a.m.

THE STORY of the courthouse construction is a fascinating subject, especially in view of the original costs involved in relation to present day estimates for improvements.

One of the chief arguments advanced by the opponents of the formation of the new county was the great cost to the taxpayers for the construction of a new courthouse and jail.

To counteract this argument, there were some half dozen proponents who blithely offered to pick up the tab.

Unfortunately there was nothing ever formally signed to follow up this gracious offer and when the county had become a legal entity all but one of the promising citizens apparently faded away.

Only one person stood by his promise, Col. William Leonard who came up with his $5,000. Possibly because he had been the

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3,400 Address Changes Set

Rural Customers Affected

By TOM LEONARD
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — If you live in a rural route mail delivery area in or near Salisbury, odds are even that your mailing address is about to change.

Salisbury Postmaster Nancy J. Fant said 3,400 customers — approximately half of those served by Salisbury area rural routes — will be sent form letters over the next few weeks advising them of new mailing addresses.

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Council Agrees To District Plan

2/11/86

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

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However, Fox could not provide any financing, since he has not yet obtained a financial backer for the revitalization project, Fennell said.

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"It is economically proper," Cooper continued, "to restore existing buildings rather than demolish and start from scratch."

In the Main Street program, revitalization managers from cities across the country share their experiences and consult with each other on solutions to problems that different cities may share. This is something Salisbury has been doing, to some extent, throughout the current revitalization project, according to Cooper. "There has always been a trading of experience," he commented.

Such methods — and other ones unique to this effort — have been so successful for this city that Governor Hughes took time to commend Salisbury Mayor Paul Martin and Executive Secretary Pat Fennell for the work that has been done here. According to Martin, at that meeting, "the State recognized the efforts of citizens of this community."

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Advertiser - 7/4/84

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9 to 5:

A Fulltime Mayor For Salisbury?

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In cities the size of Salisbury, the job pays between $30,000 and $40,000 per year. Martin explains that a salary in that range might be required to attract a qualified person to the job, but it could also be a drawback. "As it is, the mayor doesn't depend on this job for his livelihood," Martin commented. Martin added that he is now in a position to make decisions based on what he thinks is best for the community, and is not biased by a need to ensure re-election and, thus, his income. "It's a question of dedication, I think," said Martin.

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3,400 Address Changes Set

Rural Customers Affected

By TOM LEONARD
Of The Times Staff

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"This breaks the chain," Plotts said of the council's action. "This should satisfy Fox's (potential) lenders."

Plotts said the city had at first included in its plans enough parking spaces for the project, but later designated their use for parking at

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Sewer Inspections Amendment Backed

7/24/84

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council has voted to introduce an ordinance which would lighten the workload of the inspections bureau.

The proposed law, which will be voted on for a final time in two weeks, would remove a requirement that properties outside the city limits which have sewer service be inspected annually.

The city's chief inspector said such frequent check-ups are not necessary and the proposed ordinance has the support of Mayor W. Paul Martin. The law says, however, employees may make such inspections when convenient or necessary.

Sewer Bill Reduced By Council

SALISBURY — Shirley Evans of Fitzwater Street had little difficulty Monday night convincing the Salisbury City Council to reduce a portion of her most recent quarterly utility bill because of a leaky pipe and meter system.

The council waived $62 of the bill upon the recommendation of city treasurer Roger T. Baskerville. The amount represented an adjustment to the sewer portion of the bill, which is consistent with city policy when leaks cause abnormally high billings and the water used does not flow into the sewer system.

Camden Land Not Up For Sale

SALISBURY — The city's public works department has been told by elected officials not to sell off excess city property along Camden Avenue which was purchased in the deal which enabled the acquisition of land for a playground development in the Newtown and Light streets area.

Council members said Monday night that disposing of the property right now might not be in the neighborhood's best interest. Just minutes before the property disposal discussion occurred, the council voted to apply for federal aid for major street repairs in the neighborhood.

Storm Runoff Warning Is Issued

8/7

By The Associated Press

Fifteen Maryland counties and 132 municipalities have been warned by the state that they must develop plans to control pollution and flooding from storm runoff by Aug. 31, or face a court injunction on development.

If the localities do not comply the state could issue a moritorium on local grading or building permits and deny state grants state grants meant to help implement storm-water management.

The warnings by the state Water Resources Administration give localities a two-month extension to come into compliance with the state's new Stormwater Management Law.

"We felt a court would have told us to go back and set a schedule for compliance before taking more severe action, so that's what we've done," said James Peck, head of the state's Water Resources Administration.

He said he expects most of the cited jurisdictions will be be able to meet the new deadline.

If they don't, "we'll consider each case ... how close they are to complying; but high on the list of options will be to seek court injunctions," Peck said.

Peck said all but two of the 15 counties appear to have taken steps toward adopting acceptable stormwater ordinances.

Counties not yet in compliance include: Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Harford, Charles, Frederick, Caroline, Montgomery, Prince Georges, St. Marys, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico and Worcester.

Last year the legislature appropriated $1.7 million dollars for grants to help localities develop stormwater plans.

City Looks At Water Management Laws

8/14/84

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Two proposed ordinances which would establish policies on the way the city deals with flood water and storm runoff have been introduced on first reading by the city council here.

The first measure would formally identify areas considered to be in a flood plain.

The city and many communities around the country are under pressure by the federal government to establish "flood plain districts" to assure that proper future waterfront development is uniform and adequate to withstand a potential flood.

Acceptance of the federal guidelines enables the city to establish specific standards for development of properties identified as being within the flood plain.

ADOPTION OF the ordinance, which should come in two weeks, would then qualify property owners for subsidies the federal government provides for flood insurance.

Failure by the city to adopt a flood plain district ordinance would likely prevent it from acquiring future grants for development of land which may be susceptible to floods, city officials told the council.

The second ordinance addresses the problem of storm water management.

State law requires local governments to develop laws establishing strict policies future development must follow to assure that storm runoff does not cause downstream flooding problems, pollution and erosion.

Failure of a local government to adopt a local law or ordinance would mean the state law would be enforced in the community.

Assistant public works director Thomas D. Plotts presented the council with an ordinance which had been reviewed and endorsed by the Water Resources Administration as consistent with state policy.

The council was told by Plotts and other city officials that most development which has sprung up in the city in the last decade has followed those policies now being considered as a formal law.

City Streets Topic Of New Proposal

8/14/84

SALISBURY — Salisbury's public works department is working a proposal which would create a system of one-way streets in a neighborhood bounded by East Church Street, Naylor Street and Railroad Avenue.

Assistant department director Thomas Plotts said narrow street widths in the area make the proposal worth considering. The lack of adequate parking for both homeowners and businesses in the area has been a problem for many years.

Plotts said Monday night his presentation was just an introduction to some proposals being weighed by the department. A full-scale hearing on proposed changes is expected to be held in several weeks.

Leaky Water Pipe Brings High Bill

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council has agreed to waive half of a quarterly water/sewer bill for a Lake Street business because city officials say it was inflated by a leaky water pipe.

Housewarmers Inc. received a $242.88 bill at the end of June, a figure which far exceeded past quarterly bills.

The council said the firm had only to pay $121.44 because the water which leaked from the pipe did not flow into the sewer system. The bill adjustment was consistent with a long-standing city policy.

Storm Water Policy Adopted

8/28/84

SALISBURY — The City of Salisbury has a new "storm water management" policy.

The city council Monday night enacted a law spelling out in great detail how the city's public works department intends to combat the problem of excessive water runoff caused by future development. The new ordinance is also a guideline developers must follow if they want to proceed with new construction.

Salisbury Boat Landing Being Built

7/13/84

Access To Downtown Provided

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Out-of-town boaters who want to tie up their vessels within walking distance of downtown Salisbury will soon have a spot to do so.

A marine construction firm is about halfway through the job of installing a boat landing facility along the east branch of the Wicomico River near the South Division Street bridge.

When the $25,000 project is completed in the next several weeks, the city will have an additional 56 feet of bulkheading stabilizing the riverfront.

City officials also hope the facility will further expand downtown's accessibility.

The project is another idea of the volunteer R/UDAT Action Group, which shares the philosophy that the city's waterfront holds the key to a successful revitalization effort.

THE FACILITY will be only for boaters who are looking for a temporary mooring spot for their boats so they can shop in the business district or take in one of many social events which occur downtown. There will be no slip fees.

The facility's design will not permit boats that need trailers to be launched there, however.

Money for the project comes from a grant provided by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The grant program is funded from the collection of boaters' title and annual registration fees.

Matt Aydelotte, an engineer with the city's public works supervising the project, said construction work going on right now is the first of three phases to extend the River Walk Park toward the river's main branch.

BOATERS' REST STOP. The Dolbey Marine Construction firm of Nanticoke is building a boat landing area near South Division Street in Salisbury. City officials are hoping the facility will lure more people to the downtown area. (Times Photo by Bill Robinson)

Another $25,000 grant is ready for use by the city when the boaters' rest station is completed. Aydelotte said the second grant should pay for another 96 feet of low, wooden bulkheading. That construction should begin in the fall.

The city would like to add a floating dock to the facility to complete the third phase of the project.

THE LATEST bulkheading differs significantly from that which was installed between South Division Street and South Salisbury Boulevard.

Dolbey Marine Construction is using salt-treated lumber to stabilize the shoreline, which has become increasingly susceptible to erosion because the river is tidal.

The boat landing area, said Aydelotte, should provide a visually smooth transition between the steel bulkheading and the shorter, wooden planks which will be used along the bank on the south side of the river.

Eventually, city officials would like to see the addition of a canvas canopy to create a pavillion at the boat landing area. Aydelotte said city officials may seek funding from the state's Program Open Space to develop that.

Wicomico County's recreation commission would have to approve the plan before a state grant could be released that would pay for 75 percent of the project's total cost. Under the current POS formula, the city would have to cover the remaining 25 percent of the cost.

Salisbury, Md. Thurs., Aug. 30, 1984

News In Brief

Flood Insurance Law Approved

SALISBURY — Taxpayers who own low-lying property in areas identified as prone to possible flooding can now get insurance against such a disaster at a more reasonable price.

The Salisbury City Council passed an ordinance Monday night formally establishing of a "flood plain district," which essentially allows property owners "to purchase insurance at subsidized rates," according to planning and zoning official Thomas Lawton.

Passage of the law was urged by the federal government to help citizens with insurance coverage. The local law also establishes new construction requirements, another important part of the package to improve disaster insurance coverage.

Bill Robinson
Between The Lines

should say that gasoline taxes account for some 22½ cents per gallon. That's a pretty sizable chunk of change.

•••

Received a phone call from a reader the other day about Salisbury's new docking facility off South Division Street.

The caller pointed out that very few large pleasure crafts would be able to pass under bridges at Mill Street and Circle Avenue to take advantage of the facility. The Wicomico River, of course, is tidal.

The caller went on to say he was dismayed the state didn't do more homework before deciding whether or not the city deserved to receive the initial $25,000 grant.

Question On Boats

9/9/84

Editor Of The Times:

Would you please tell me what kind of boats will be able to use the new docking facility on Carroll Street in Salisbury that is now being constructed?

Perhaps rowboats, as there are two stationary bridges that boats must pass under.

Dorothy W. Williams
Hebron

Matt Aydelotte, an engineer with Salisbury's public works department, said the facility was designed to accommodate small boats, perhaps no larger than 14 or 15 feet long. He acknowledged larger craft — especially those with features like tall windshields — probably would not be able to pass under the spans between the main branch of the Wicomico River and new dock. The Camden Street bridge, he said, is scheduled to be removed before the end of 1984. — Ed.

Sewer Line To Airport Is Delayed

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff 8/23/84

SALISBURY — Installation of a new sewer line from Shoppers' World to the Salisbury Wicomico County airport is a month behind schedule but county officials are not convinced they should extend the completion date deadline.

The council voted 3-1 this week to reject a request from Tony Palladino to give his firm until the end of October to complete the $1 million project.

Records show the company has apparently not followed some of the major provisions of the contract for the project, which when finished, will provide the airport with sewer service so an industrial park can be developed.

THE COUNCIL released a tersely-worded letter written Aug. 10 to Palladino, who represents the A.V.P. Contracting Co., which cited dissatisfaction with the quality of work being done. The letter was written by Tom Plotts, assistant director of the Salisbury public works department, who is supervising the project for the city. The city and county have entered into a joint agreement on the sewer extension project beyond the city limits.

Councilwoman Betty K. Gardner voted against rejecting the deadline extension, saying she was sympathetic to Palladino's claims that delays in the delivery of parts were partially responsible for the problem. Councilman Victor H. Laws was absent.

Council members indicated they would reconsider their position at the Sept. 4 meeting if Palladino could produce evidence that his explanations for the delays have merit.

Palladino said he was unaware the topic was going to be discussed at a public session with the council and said he was not prepared to respond to complaints filed by William Miles, the supervising engineer representing the company which designed the sewer extension plan for the county.

ANOTHER LETTER written by a supervisor who works for Miles' firm said Palladino's firm has failed to submit key drawings which map out the pipe installation; did not submit the names of subcontractors working on the project; failed to provide proper supervision; and did not use accepted techniques for sewer line construction.

Palladino acknowledged his firm has been lax in submitting drawings and the names of contractors. He blamed the delays on several factors, including bad weather and an inability to get key parts for the job.

As it stands right now, if the A.V.P. Contracting Co. fails to meet the Sept. 28 deadline spelled out in the construction contract, the firm will be penalized $200 a day for every day the project remains incomplete.

Sewer Deadline Extended

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff 9/5/84

SALISBURY — The firm installing a $1 million sewer line from Shoppers' World to the Salisbury Wicomico County Airport has been given an extended deadline to finish the work.

A.V.P. Contracting Co. has until Nov. 5 to complete the project, a 35-day extension of the original deadline spelled out in the job contract awarded in the spring. The Wicomico County Council approved a revision of the new target completion date at its Tuesday meeting.

A.V.P. spokesman Tony Palladino provided council members with documentation explaining why his firm would be unable to finish the job by the end of this month.

The project has been slowed by delays in the delivery of parts and equipment and inclment weather in June and July, according to Palladino.

TWO WEEKS AGO, Palladino faced a less-understanding council, which was told by its supervising engineer that A.V.P. had been uncooperative in meeting specifications in the contract. A.V.P. had also provided little proof it needed more time to do the work, the engineer said.

The engineer, William Miles, was not present for Tuesday's council session because of a schedule conflict.

Council members said they were satisfied Palladino had provided adequate information explaining the cause of the delays plaguing the project which, when finished, will provide municipal sewer service to existing and proposed new businesses which plan to locate at the airport.

HAD THE COUNCIL not extended the deadline, Palladino's company faced a $200-a-day penalty for every day the job remained incomplete beyond Sept. 28. The council's action Tuesday waived the penalty during the extension period.

Palladino assured the council that much of the work would be completed by mid-October.

The county and the city of Salisbury governments have entered into a joint agreement to allow extension of the municipal sewer line into the county about two miles beyond the city limits. Elected officials are hopeful the new service will enable the airport to attract more business to the community, further boosting economic development.

Retirement Party Is Set For City Worker

9/27/84

SALISBURY— A retirement party for City of Salisbury employee Alfred "Cab" Corbin will be held Wednesday starting at 11 a.m. at the City Yard Day Room located at Lake and School streets here.

For the last 15 years Corbin has been the foreman of a construction crew responsible for building city attractions.

Retirement won't stop the 68-year-old Corbin. He plans to begin a full-time farming career with one of his closest friends. His wife of 48 years, Mary, retired last May.

Mayor Critical Of Equipment Use 9/29/84

SALISBURY — Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr. has issued a memo prohibiting the use of city property and equipment for anything other than city business.

In the memo issued this week, Martin said it had come to his attention that some city vehicles and equipment were being loaned or signed out to off duty workers for their personal use at home.

Martin said it will be the policy of his administration to prohibit such use from now on.

Sewer Line To Airport Criticized

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff 10/3/84

SALISBURY — Shoddy worksmanship is threatening to delay completion of a sewer line being run from Shoppers' World to the Salisbury Wicomico County Airport, according to an engineer supervising the project for the county.

William Miles also predicted at Tuesday's Wicomico County Council session that the firm doing the work will be unable to finished the project by the Nov. 5 deadline.

Last month, Tony Palladino of the A.V.P. Contracting Co. received a one-month extension from the council to finish the project. Palladino claimed bad weather and equipment delivery delays put his firm behind a schedule that originally called for the job to be finished by early October.

Since then, A.V.P. has finished installing the sewer line along Mt. Hermon Road and is currently working near the airport on the project's last phase.

MILES URGED THE county not to grant any further deadline extensions and to withhold payments until the firm proves it is doing satisfactory work. A V.P. has been paid about $650,000 of the $1 million it expects to receive for the work.

Miles said Tuesday that construction on a key pumping station near the airport shows signs of major problems. He said the firm is using "inappropriate construction techniques" and may require some redesigning work.

Over the last two months, the council has released several letters from consultants monitoring the project which show A.V.P. has been warned repeatedly about its quality of work.

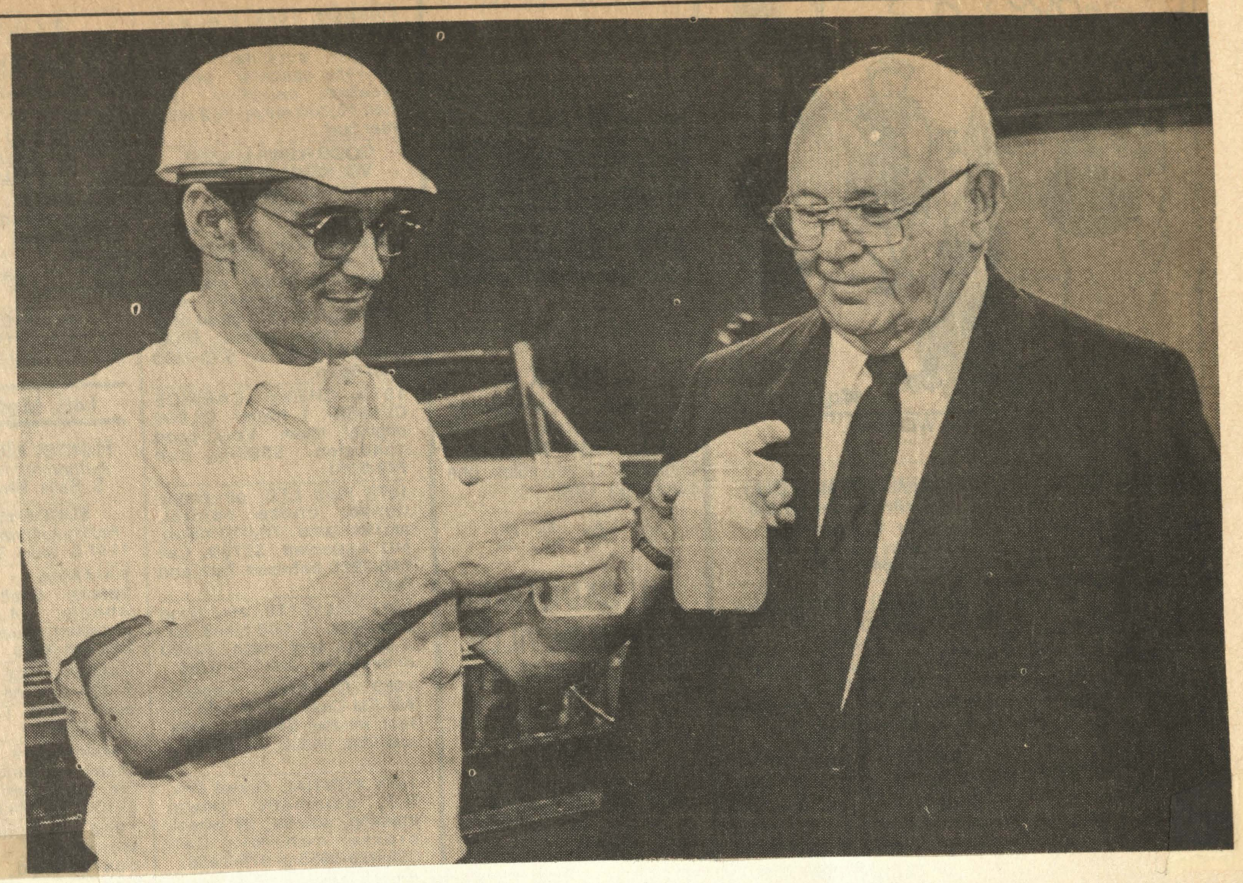
Miles said he has had major philosophical differences with the company's management over installation methods since the project began.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT Henry S. Parker told Miles he has the county's support in demanding that A.V.P. meet its contractual obligations.

"You'll just have to sweat it out," Miles said in response to council Vice President Bruce W. Ruark's question about what steps the county should take.

If A.V.P. does not meet the Nov. 5 deadline, it will be penalized $200 a day, according to terms in the contract.

The sewer line is being installed with the hope it will enable the county to develop a major airport-oriented industrial park.



SEE, MR. MAYOR. Salisbury Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr., right, recently commended Perdue Farms Inc.'s wastewater treatment operation at the Route 50 processing plant, saying that the facility "has been in compliance with our sewer ordinance since December." Showing the mayor samples of treated and untreated water is Don Gumbiner, manager of the primary wastewater treatment plant. The operation removes suspended solids and fats from 1.2 million gallons of processing water daily before it is discharged into the city sewage treatment plant. "The city is pleased by the responsiveness Perdue has shown for the good of the community," Martin said. Plant personnel monitor the water hourly to assure compliance with government standards and conduct weekly lab tests.

Section Of Parsons Road To Be Closed

9/11/84

SALISBURY — A "housekeeping" ordinance which will officially close a section of Parsons Road that has not been used for years has been introduced by the Salisbury City Council.

Public works director Kenneth M. Haensler said an on-going review of city maps turned up the 25-foot section of defunct street still listed on the active street list. When passed in two weeks, Haensler said the ordinance would officially declare the city's abandonment of the street and subsequently turn it over to Chesapeake Shipbuilding, which already has the land marked off from public access by fence.

City Annexes Two Parcels Of Land

SALISBURY — Two pieces of property which both will be the sites of major development have been annexed into the city by the Salisbury City Council.

A 1.7-acre lot owned by the city on the corner of South Schumaker Drive, South Park Drive and Beaglin Park Drive will become the home of a third fire department station house.

A 25-acre tract between Route 50 and Mt. Hermon Road just west of Tilghman Road has also been added to the city tax rolls following council action Monday. Realtor Edward Baker said plans by a developer he represents call for the construction of multi-family housing on the crop and timber land. Baker did not say how soon that project would start, however.

Section Of Parsons Road Made Private

SALISBURY — An unused section of Parsons Road has been converted to private property by the City of Salisbury.

At the request of the city public works department, the city council this week approved the transfer of the street bed to the Chesapeake Shipbuilding Co. Public works officials said the section of road was abandoned many years ago and is not needed as part of the city street system.

The section of road is already inside the firm's fenced-in property lines.

9/28/84

Sludge Storage Facility OK'd

SALISBURY — A company which utilizes waste water from chicken processing plants as a crop fertilizer has the Wicomico County Council's approval to erect an open air storage facility on isolated property off West Road.

Lyle Jarrett, a representative of BioGro Systems, said Tuesday his company is anxious to expand its operation in Wicomico County and needs a site to build a one-acre lagoon where biodegradable sludge can be stored indefinitely.

Jarrett said he asked for time on the agenda to brief council members on a proposal and to seek an interpretation of the county zoning code. The property, owned by farmer Bill Twilley, is zoned for agricultural use, a situation which caused some uncertainty over whether the company needed to apply for a special exception to the zoning code so a facility could be built.

The Annapolis-based firm gets its product locally from the Perdue Inc. plant in downtown Salisbury.

Perdue's contract with BioGro enables the chicken processor to solve a problem disposing of fat-saturated waste water that Salisbury public works officials say can be damaging to the city's sewer treatment plant.

BioGro removes "three or four" truckloads of sludge daily from the Perdue plant. Inclement weather delays the land application technique the firm employs with its special vehicles, so BioGro needs a place where it can store the liquid until it can be applied to farmers' fields, Jarrett said. A lagoon would enable BioGro to store three months worth of sludge.

Council members expressed concern about the possibility of odor but Jarrett said similar lagoon systems the firm operates elsewhere prompt very few complaints.

Since chicken plant sludge is organic, BioGro does nothing to treat the liquid. It can only be applied to fields after a permit is secured from the state health department. The lagoon would be built on land leased from Twilley, who said he had no objection to the project.

The council's endorsement of BioGro's plans was unanimous.

11/9/84

Zoo Fund-Raising Goal Exceeded

9/9/84

By CHARMAINE CULVER
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The Friends of the Salisbury Zoo exceeded its $1,500 fund-raising goal during the fourth annual Zoo Appreciation Day held Saturday.

According to Randy Romblad, president of Friends, a record crowd of more than 4,000 children and adults attended the festivities held at the zoo. During the day, refreshments, balloons, T-shirts, patches, prints and rhea eggs were sold to raise money for new graphic signs for the zoo.

The proceeds, along with donations, resulted in a net profit of $1,857.20, Romblad said.

"In the past, we have sponsored the Zoo Appreciation Day merely to encourage people to come and appreciate their zoo which has been recognized as being one of the finest small zoos in the country. This year, we encouraged people to show their appreciation through financial contributions," Romblad said.

"IT HAS BEEN a successful day and we really appreciate those who showed their support," he added.

During the day, special displays by the Ocean Pines Nature Center, Maryland Forest, Park and Wildlife Service, Wicomico County Humane Society and Zoo Education Committee were set up throughout the zoo.

Sunshine the Clown, Smokey Bear and Peter Rabbit were also on hand to delight the children.

Disc jockey Tim Dakin from WKYZ FM 106 broadcast live from the zoo and musical entertainment was provided by Todd and Coolidge.

The Zoo Education Committee held a contest to name a boy skunk it recently aquired. A "Winnie the Pooh" stuffed animal was awarded to Elaine Dalfonza who came up with the winning name of Lucky.

The following businesses and groups contributed food or donations for the festival: Carway Chrysler Plymouth, Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co., Johnson Seed and Feed, Perdue Inc., Days Inn of Salisbury, Warehouse Food Market, Salisbury Exchange Club, Todd and Coolidge, Alexanders House of Music, Parkside High School, Salisbury State College, WKYZ, K and L Microwave, Toys R Us, Sears and Roebuck and Esham Distributors.

ANIMALS ON DISPLAY. Lea Lashley, center, a member of the Salisbury Zoo Education Committee, holds a decented skunk while 8-year-old Jeff Kershner of Salisbury, left, reluctantly pets the striped creature. Meanwhile, Allen Rombland, 13, of Parsonsburg, shows off a snake. Both animals, along with the blue-and-gold macaw perched on a tree limb behind the boys, belong to the education committee and were on display during the fourth annual Zoo Appreciation Day in Salisbury on Saturday. (Times Photo by Charmaine Culver)

Zoo Appreciation Day Activities Set

SALISBURY — Members of the Friends of the Salisbury Zoo will sponsor their fourth annual Zoo Appreciation Day Sept. 8 from noon to 4 p.m.

The Friends hope to raise $1,500 for more new graphics signs for the zoo, according to Randall Romblad, president of the organization.

Features for children will include Sunshine the Clown, who will give a favor to all children under 12 years old, Smokey the Bear, who is celebrating his 40th birthday this year, and Peter Rabbit, Romblad said.

Entertainment will be provided by singers Todd and Coolidge. Displays will be provided by the Mayland Department of Natural Resources, the Wicomico County Humane Society, and other groups.

The zoo education committee will have guides stationed around the zoo to answer questions about animals. There will also be a "Touch 'n' Tell" table, featuring animal-related items such as a rhea egg, feathers, and a hognose snake that visitors may handle.

Zoo staff members will conduct special feedings for the animals. The spectacled bears will get watermelons; the pelicans and jaguars, fish; and the bison, llamas, sheep, ponies, and monkeys will be given tree branches.

A feature this year will be a live broadcast from the zoo by WKYZ, FM 106, whose disk jockey Tim Dakin, will have afternoon tea with the animals.

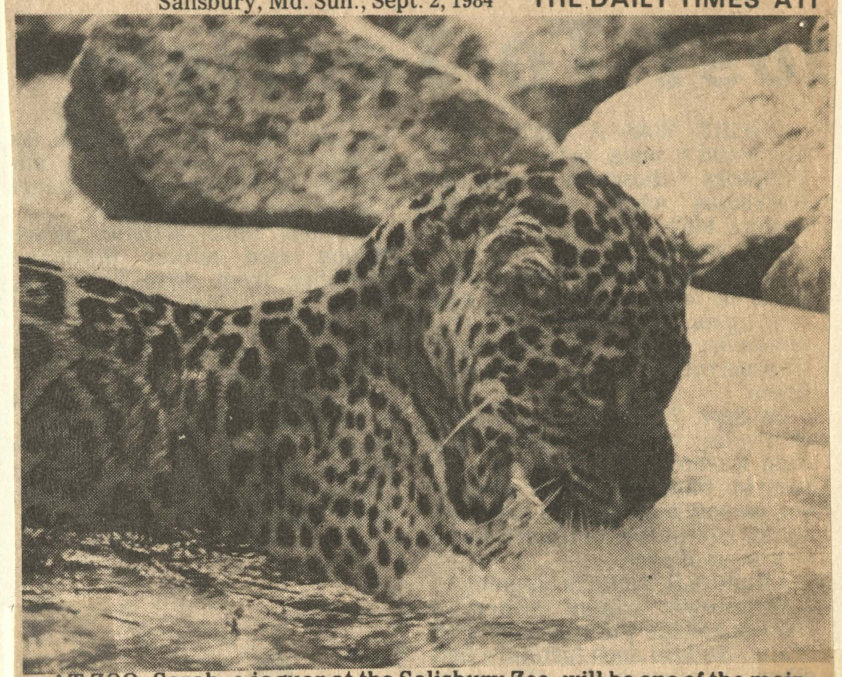
The zoo recently received a tame descented skunk from the Department of Natural Resources to use for education purposes. He does not have a name. Children will be able to enter a "name the skunk" contest. Prizes will be awarded.

Hot dogs, potato chips and Pepsi-Cola will be available, along with zoo t-shirts, patches and other things.

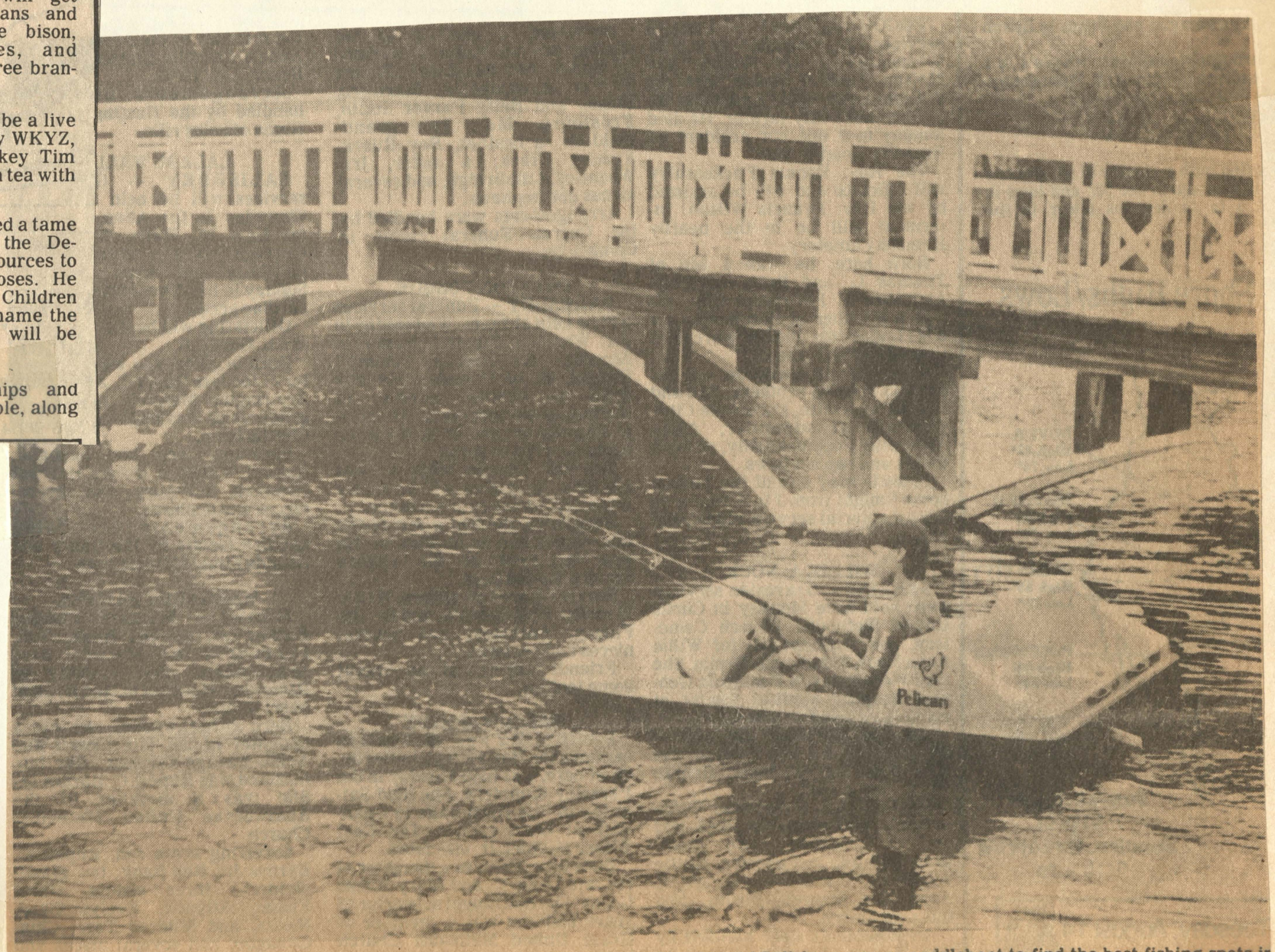
Romblad said, "the citizens of the Salisbury area are very fortunate that the city supports one of the best small zoos in America. It is a marvelous recreational, educational and conservation facility that all our local citizens should be aware of and attend."

The zoo director, Dr. Peter Crowcroft, said "this is an opportunity for the citizens of Salisbury to show their appreciation for their fine zoo. The great thing about Salisbury is that people get involved, and we hope many will set aside this aftenoon for the zoo."

Zoo Appreciation Day is open to the public. No admission will be charged.



AT ZOO. Sarah, a jaguar at the Salisbury Zoo, will be one of the main attractions on Zoo Appreciation Day Sept. 8 from noon to 4 p.m.



FISHING AROUND. Instead of waiting for the fish to come to him, John Mendoza of Salisbury uses a paddleboat to find the best fishing spots in the Salisbury City Park. (Times Photo by Brice Stump)

MAKING PROGRESS. Workers Dean Dashiell, left, of Salisbury, and Lou Welch of Harrington, Del., are silhoutted in front of a morning sun while they work on a construction site building the First National Bank on South Salisbury Boulevard in Salisbury. (Times Photos By Brice Stump)

NEW EATING PLACE. Construction continues on what will be "Charlie's Garage Foodrinkery" on South Salisbury Boulevard near Salisbury State College.

Salisbury Building Boom

SALISBURY — Around Wicomico County and in Salisbury, remodeling and new construction work is readily apparent but according to John Hughes, building inspector for the county, the number of building permits issued in July is down from those issued the same month last year, but the dollar value is up.

"There were 59 permits issued in July 1983, with an estimated construction cost of $1,334,095. This year during the same month there were 46 permits issued with an estimated construction cost of $1,610,000," Hughes said.

Hughes credits the rise in construction with the interest rates. "There has been a gradual increase in new construction for the past year and a half."

While it may appear there is an increase in building, there is actually a slow down which is normal this time of year. During the early part of this year the number of new construction projects rose because of the lower interest rates. "Now it is slowing again as the interest rate inches upward, he said."

HUGHES EXPECTS another "building spurt" before winter, and says builders and investors are taking a "wait and see" attitude on the economy.

Henry P. Wojtanowski, director of Salisbury's Bureau of Inspections, said new construction in residential building is booming.

"There is at least a 35 to 40 percent increase in residential building over this same period last year," Wojtanowski said. "Commercial construction really hasn't risen or fallen; it's constant."

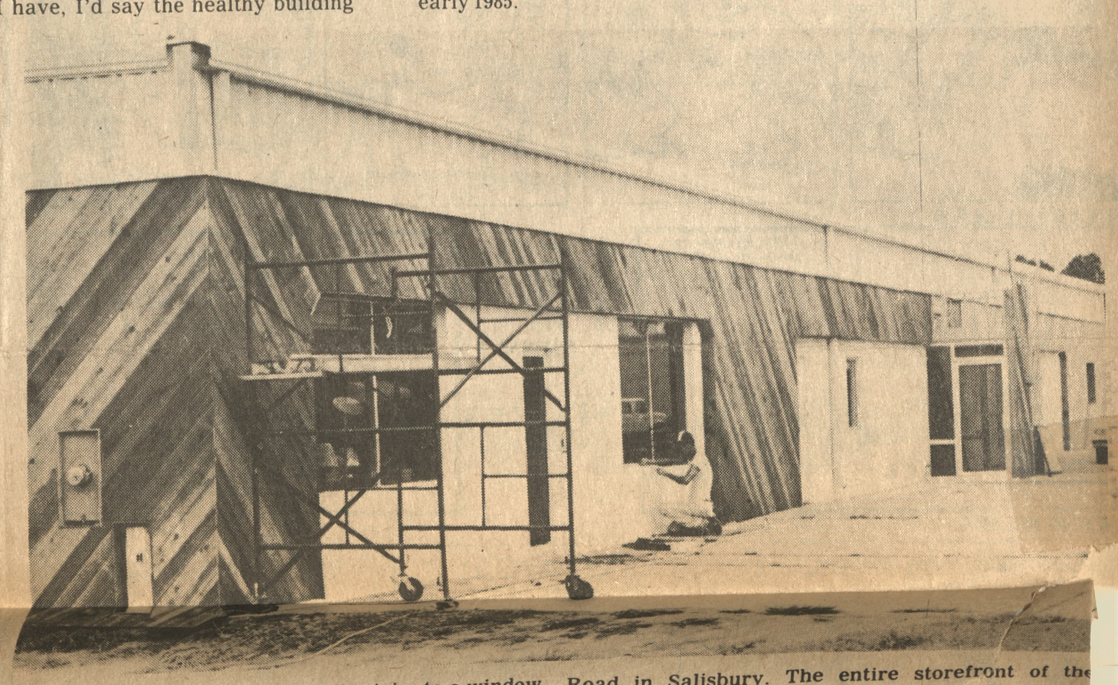
He attributes favorable interest rates, the state of the economy and local factors for the residential building boom.

"I don't know where all the people are coming from. I do know that since Salisbury State College increased its enrollment of students, the kids have gotten together and rented a lot of the single family dwellings in the area.

"Based on what information I have, I'd say the healthy building trend is going to continue for the remainder of this year and into early 1985."

SERVICE SHOP. Construction on the new "Jiffy Lube" has begun on South Salisbury Boulevard, one of the newest car service centers in Salisbury.

WORK BEGINNING. Materials to be used in a sewer system from the Salisbury-Wicomico County Airport to Salisbury are stockpiled at the airport. Construction on the line has already begun.



A NEW LOOK. A workman applies trim to a window at E. D. Electrical Supply Company on Snow Hill Road in Salisbury. The entire storefront of the building has been remodeled.

BOAT DOCK. Construction on a $25,000 boat ramp on the east branch of the Wicomico River is nearing a September completion date. The facility in Salisbury will provide docking slips for boaters visiting the area.

HOSPITAL WORK. Walls of an incinerator at Peninsula General Hospital Medical Center in Salisbury take shape. A hospital spokesman said the incinerator will be operation in early September and the heat produced will be used to fire a boiler in the complex.

SETTING A FOUNDATION. Workmen set concrete blocks at the site of Market Place, a retail shop center being built on Mt. Hermon Road in Salisb

104-Unit Salisbury Development Approved

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — With the approval of the Salisbury City Council following a public hearing Monday, developers are making headway to build a 104-unit development aimed at the area's retirement population.

The council approved the first reading of an ordinance to rezone 21.77 acres in the Glen Avenue, Tide Mill Apartments and Schumaker Glen Subdivision area from R-8A to a Planned Residential District.

The proposed development, called "Spring Chase," would consist of 5.9 units per acre, according the Salisbury Wicomico Planning and Zoning Office, which is about one-half less the density under R-8 zoning.

According to the developers' attorney, Christopher F. Davis, the Planned Residential District zoning will afford more natural buffers between the new and existing development, more open space and less population than would be afforded by an R-8-permitted apartment complex.

John Weatherby, Weatherby-Hawkins Inc. president, said his company has been involved with the property for 10 years but waited for the appropriate time to propose a project that would complement the property's natural aesthetics. He said the project will be financed by Maryland National Bank.

ARCHITECT ROBERT Galvin said each unit, housed in a one-storu duplex unit, will be 1,100 sqaure feet and include a garage, laundry room, screened-in porch, livingroom, diningroom, two master bedrooms and two master baths. He said the homes will cost between $70,000 and $80,000.

"We're not talking about a low-end product," Galvin said. Should the project receive final approval, he said the developer is hoping to begin construction this fall and have the development's models open by the spring.

Davis said the development is geared toward retired people whose children have "flown the nest," making a smaller home in a quiet neighborhood more appealing.

Once the project was explained, the handful of residents from the area who attended the public hearing said they had no opposition to the project.

"I think it's really an exciting project," Councilwoman Martha Graham said.

9/9/86

Gary Hales

He Helps With Birthday Quilt's Embroidery

SALISBURY — Who would imagine that a fellow who lives in a log cabin he helped to build could also find time for a hobby such as embroidery?

Gary Hales does. He chose embroidery as a hobby when he was working away from home in New Jersey and needed something to occupy his evening hours.

"I took it up out of boredom because being away from home except for weekends I had a lot of free time on my hands," Hales said. "I admired a crewel embroidery kit in a drug store one evening and decided to try my hand at it,"

Hales, 33, says he is self-taught and has a repertoire of 8 to 10 stiches. He's stuck to kits up until now and learned to master whatever new stitches the kit called for.

A few months ago, he read a newspaper article about an embroidery project that interested him. The Kidney Foundation of the Eastern Shore is making a birthday quilt to commemorate Maryland's 350th birthday and Hales says he thought it was an intriguing idea.

The whole idea of the quilt was "novel," he said, "something that won't come along very often."

Hales called it a "fun thing to do." So much so, that he has completed two squares for the quilt already, embroidering the logos of businesses in the area who opted to participate in the project by paying $50 to reserve a space on the quilt.

At first, Hales, a draftsman in the City of Salisbury's Department of Public Works, confined his participation to embroidery, but recently he branched out into sales. He began by selling space to his co-workers at $5 per name to have their names put on this quilt.

Now he is working on his third logo, the emblem of the Soroptimist Club, and selling space whenever he finds a prospect. He wears an "As Me About the Quilt" button to work each day and is getting results. He has filled one square of names and is working on a second.

Hales is not the only male on the quilt committee, but so far he is the only one who sews. After five years of pursuing his hobby he said he is finding the projects he takes on with the quilt a challenge he enjoys.

More information about the quilt project, may be obtained by calling the local chapter of the National Kidney Foundation at 546-9228. Volunteers are needed to sell space and to sew as well as to help coordinate the project, according to a spokesman.

WALTER C. ANDERSON
CITY SOLICITOR
130 East Main Street
Salisbury, Maryland

NOTICE OF ANNEXATION
TO THE CITY OF SALISBURY
OF FIRE STATION AREA ANNEXATION
AND U.S. ROUTE NO. 50
NUMBER 2 AREA ANNEXATION

All contiguous to and binding upon the Easterly corporate limits of the City of Salisbury.

NOTICE is hereby given by the Council of the City of Salisbury that on September 10, 1984, Resolutions Nos. 262 and 263 were introduced and read at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Salisbury proposing and recommending that the boundaries of the City of Salisbury be changed so as to annex to and include within the boundaries of the City of Salisbury, all that certain area of land therein identified as "Fire Station Area Annexation" and "U.S. Route No. 50 Number 2 Area Annexation", hereinafter more fully described, together with the persons residing therein and their property, generally subject to all provisions of the Charter of Salisbury and all ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations thereof, and in particular providing that upon effectiveness of the annexation of the area therein proposed and recommended, all property in said area shall be subject to all provisions of the Charter of Salisbury and all Ordinances, Resolutions, Rules, and Regulations of the City of Salisbury in effect on said date shall apply to said area to the same extent as to all other areas within the present corporate limits, except as specified in said resolution hereinafter set forth.

NOTICE is further hereby given by the Council of the City of Salisbury that the Council will hold a public hearing on said Resolution and the said annexation therein proposed and recommended on

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1984
AT 8:05 P.M.
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY-COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
SALISBURY, MARYLAND

and all interested persons are invited to attend such public hearing and present their views.

The proposed area and conditions of annexation are as follows:

Fire Station Area Annexation, Resolution No. 262, proposing the annexation to The City of Salisbury of a certain area of land situated contiguous to and binding upon the Easterly corporate limits of the City of Salisbury, popularly known as the Fire Station Area, and bounded on the west by the India Broughton land, bounded on the North by South Park Drive, bounded on the East by the Easterly line of Beaglin Park Drive, and bounded on the South by South Schumaker Drive, and being entirely the property of the City of Salisbury.

U.S. Route 50 Number 2 Area Annexation, Resolution No. 263, proposing the annexation to the City of Salisbury of a certain area of land situated contiguous to and binding upon the Easterly corporate limits of the City of Salisbury, popularly known as the U.S. Route No. 50 Number 2 area and bounded on the West by the corporate limits, and bounded on the North by Maryland National Bank land, and bounded on the East by the property of Nanticoke Homes, and bounded on the South, in part, by Beaglin Branch, and in part, by Mt. Hermon Road, and being the property of Irving L. Brown and Betty L. Brown, his wife.

CONDITIONS OF ANNEXATION

A. SERVICES AND TAXES

1. The City will assess no taxes and will provide no services until the first normal taxing period following the placing of water and sewer mains to adequately serve the area. At this time all normal services will be provided.

B. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. All EXISTING DEVELOPMENT will be given five (5) years following availability of utility services to tie into City systems. At the expiration of this period of time, front-foot assessments will be charged and connection required, in accordance with current City Policy.

2. NEWLY DEVELOPING PROPERTIES will be required to use any available City system at the time of construction. Front-foot assessments and tapping charges will be payable at the time of application for service.

3. WATER AND SEWER and other improvements and services will be available to newly annexed areas in accordance with prevailing City Policy.

4. ZONING will be that nearest use compatible with the County Zoning presently in effect in the area at time of Annexation. Major zoning changes will be done only on a comprehensive basis and under control of the Planning Commission.

Notice is further hereby given by the Council of The City of Salisbury that following such public hearing, the Council of The City of Salisbury is empowered by law to enact said Resolution, and if so enacted, the said Resolution provides that it shall take effect upon the expiration of forty-five (45) days following its passage unless within such period, a petition for referendum is filed meeting the requirements of Article 23A of the Annotated Code of Maryland, 1973 Replacement Volume, as amended.

A Copy of said Resolution is posted and may be examined at the City-County Office Building, Salisbury, Maryland.

BY ORDER OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
SALISBURY, MARYLAND

Patrick J. Fennell
...tive Secretary

Sheraton Unveils Expansion Plans

Work Beginning On Project To Cost Over $3M

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

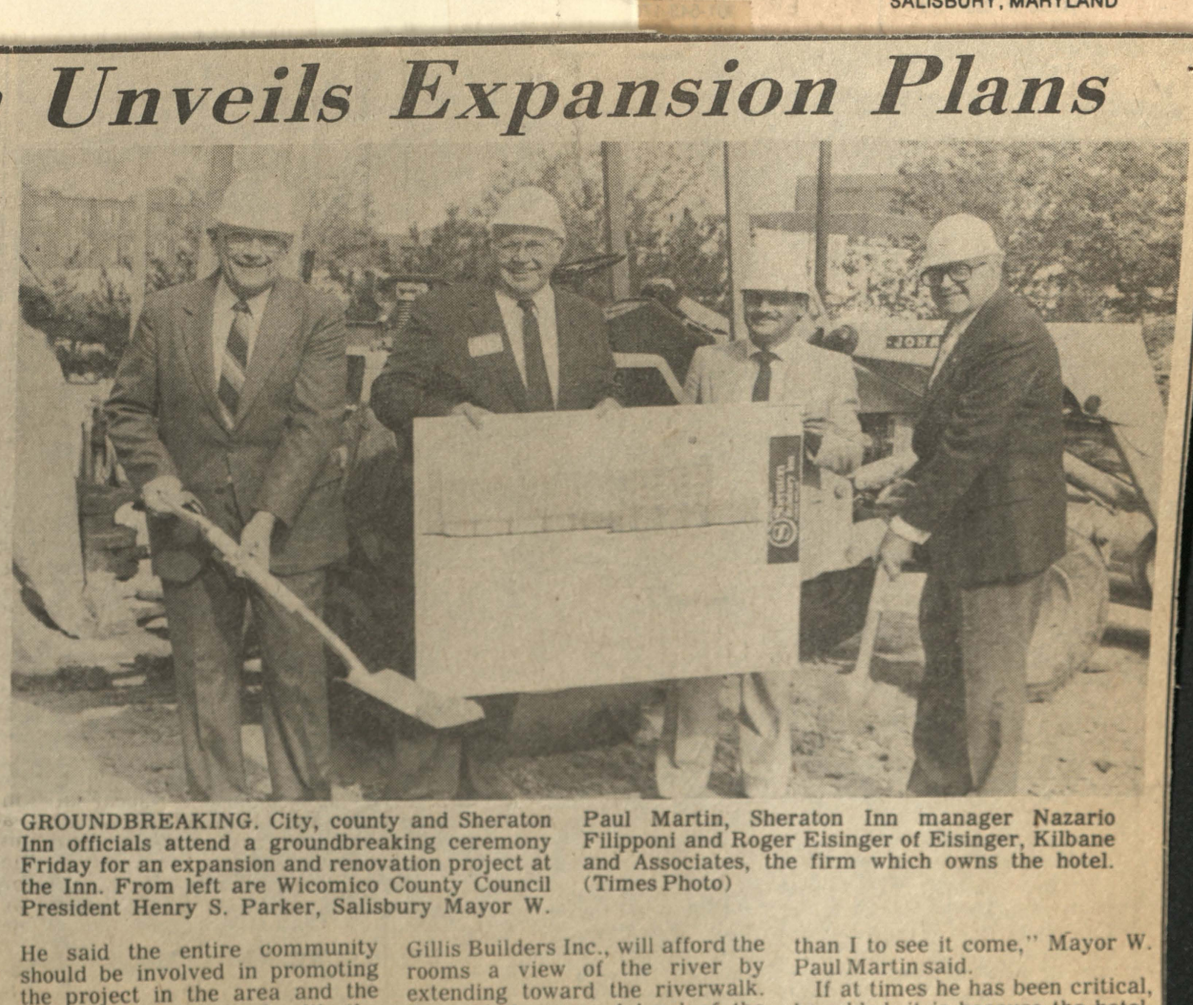
SALISBURY — Owners and management of the Sheraton Inn here on Friday introduced plans for its more than $3 million expansion and renovation project.

The project includes the addition of a 45-room tower, new lobby and entrance areas, a new, multi-tier restaurant, a new ballroom facility and two executive board rooms. It is scheduled for completion next July.

According to Roger Eisinger, of the Inn owner Eisinger, Kilbane and Associates, his firm has invested $8 million to $9 million in the hotel to date and the new project's cost will probably be close to $4 million once renovations are completed.

Continental Hotel Management Inc. President Gary Gillis said the hotel's owners have asked that the project involve local businesses, from architects to contractors and subconstractors. He said the facility currently employs about 85 people and will employ from 135 to 145 people when the additions are completed.

GILLIS SAID a survey was conducted among local businesses to determine what their hotel needs are in terms of such facilities as banquet rooms, meeting rooms and guest rooms. He said the entire community should be involved in promoting the project in the area and the hotel will be involved with the visitors' bureau and the tourism council in marketing the region.



GROUNDBREAKING. City, county and Sheraton Inn officials attend a groundbreaking ceremony Friday for an expansion and renovation project at the Inn. From left are Wicomico County Council President Henry S. Parker, Salisbury Mayor W. Paul Martin, Sheraton Inn manager Nazario Filipponi and Roger Eisinger of Eisinger, Kilbane and Associates, the firm which owns the hotel. (Times Photo)

Project architect John Van Fossen, of Somers & Van Fossen, said the new wing, constructed by Gillis Builders Inc., will afford the rooms a view of the river by extending toward the riverwalk. He said the ground level of the entire building will have a new surfacing to have a uniform appearance once the wing is constructed.

"Nobody could be more gratified than I to see it come," Mayor W. Paul Martin said.

If at times he has been critical, he added, it is because the hotel, located next to Riverwalk Park, is one of the first impressions Salisbury visitors receive and he wants it to give the best impression.

9/6/86

Listings

BLE CHANNEL LISTINGS

oadcasting Network
ffice
& Entertainment
etwork

(N) Nickelodeon (Children's Entertainment & Arts)
(W) Superstation 17, Atlanta
(M) The Movie Channel
(S) Movies

DAY

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Western) Jane Russell, r Huston. Billy the Kid falls e with a beautiful woman ides him from the law.
2 4 **MAMA'S FAMILY** a attends a country club din- hen Ellen is named Woman Year. (R)
LL THE KING'S HORSES
2 16 **BASEBALL** Balti- Orioles at Seattle Mariners
LEGMEN
NEWS
LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH
FAMOUS
BUTTERFLIES
SPECIAL
5 **REDSKINS SEASON**
NER SPECIAL
BLESS ME, FATHER
4 7 9 11 13 **NEWS**
ODD COUPLE
BENNY HILL
AUSTIN CITY LIMITS Per- nances by Con Hunley and the

40 Yrs. Experience
5 Yr. Warranty
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hop At Home Service
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Antiques, Autos Mini-Blinds Verticals
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David Frizzell and Shelly st.
ABC NEWS
MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING RCUS
INTER-AID
47 **NEWS**
4 **SATURDAY NIGHT** E Host: Joan Rivers. Guests: sical Youth. (R)
MOVIE ★★ "March Or Die" 7, Adventure) Gene Hackman, von Sydow. An archaelogist for Arab treasure in the roccan desert while a hard- ded major tries to control a g legionnaire with romance is mind.
ABC NEWS
MOVIE ★★ "Hell River" 5, Drama) Rod Taylor, Adam t. A group of Yugoslavian partisans makes a stand against the Nazis. (R)
11 **BLACK MUSIC MAGAZINE**
13 **MOVIE** ★★★ "Harry And Walter Go To New York" (1976, Comedy) James Caan, Elliott Gould. Two bungling turn-of-the-century vaudevillians turn their attentions to safecracking in order to make a living.
20 **ALL IN THE FAMILY**
47 **MOVIE**
64 **AIDS: PROFILE OF AN EPIDEMIC** Edward Asner narrates a comprehensive report on the disease, featuring five patients: a child, a homosexual, a hemophiliac, an intravenous drug abuser and a Haitian.
C **JOHN ANKERBERG**

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11:45 7 **MOVIE** ★★½ "One-Eyed Jacks" (1961, Western) Marlon Brando, Karl Malden. An ex-con feigns friendship with his betrayer so that he can custom-design his revenge.
12:00 11 **HIT CITY**
20 **ALFRED HITCHCOCK PRESENTS**
C **MINISTRY SPECIALS**
12:30 11 **MOVIE** ★★½ "The 25th Hour" (1967, Drama) Anthony Quinn, Virna Lisi. A Nazi police head sends a Romanian to a prison camp so that he can have the man's wife.
16 **NEWS**
20 **ALFRED HITCHCOCK PRESENTS**
1:00 2 **DANCE SHOW**
4 **ROCK PALACE**
16 **WRESTLING**
20 **700 CLUB**
1:30 5 **MOVIE** ★★½ "The Night That Panicked America" (1975, Drama) Vic Morrow, Cliff De Young. Millions of Americans listening to a 1938 radio broadcast of "The War Of The Worlds"

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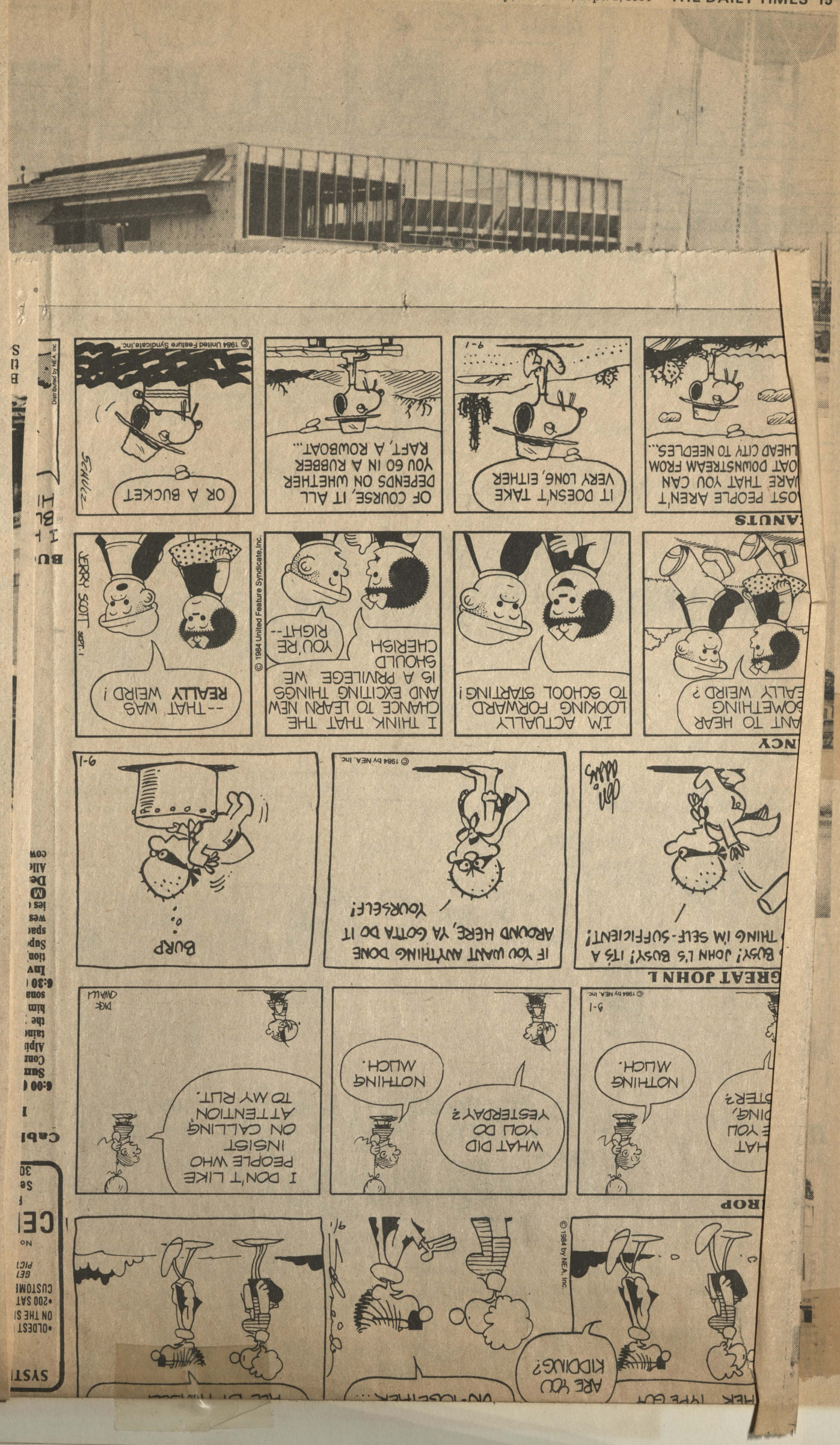


Salisbury Contracts Approved

9/11/84

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council acted Monday night on three key proposals it hopes will further revitalization of the downtown and riverfront areas.

The council approved a contract transferring a city-owned parking lot to the state of Maryland for $550,000. The lot, bounded by Poplar Hill Avenue, Old Water, East Church and Baptist streets, is the site for a major new state office complex to be built by the end of the decade.

The council also OK'd an agreement to relocate the Tabernacle of Prayer in the 200 block of Lake Street to a new site on Parsons and Mitchell roads. The city intends to spend about $227,000 on the project, 62 percent of which will come from a grant provided by the federal Housing and Urban Development agency.

The third action was acceptance of a feasibility study done by Pannell, Kerr and Forster. The firm evaluated a plan to develop property along the Wicomico River similar to projects in Baltimore and Norfolk.

The report, which cost the city nearly $29,000, said "Salisbury's downtown waterfront offers a good opportunity as a setting for living, working, shopping, dining, boating and enjoyment of a variety of other leisure activities."

THE DEVELOPMENT — commonly known as "the Harbor Project" — would include a marina, townhouses, retail, produce and seafood market space, a seafood restaurant, an apartment building and hotel.

Executive session negotiations have been going on since the beginning of the year between city officials and a potential developer who says he is interested in coordinating the entire project. The developer, however, wanted independent confirmation the multi-million project could be successful.

The summary of the report given by city revitalization director Philip C. "Pete" Cooper would seem to indicate the entire proposal has merit and could be accomplished by 1990.

Part of the city's commitment to promote riverfront construction has been acquisition of land it would like to package for a developer.

The council Monday night authorized Mayor W. Paul Martin to finalize negotiations for the relocation of the church headed by the Rev. Nathaniel Edwards. The terms are conditional on the sale of $3.66 million in capital improvement bonds slated later this year.

THE CHURCH'S current property will be bought by the city with $140,000 in HUD funding, which in turn will be combined with about $87,000 from an upcoming bond sale. The money will be used to construct a new church on 2½ acres of city-owned land on Parsons Road. All city services such as street lighting, curbs, gutters and utilities will be provided.

The agreement also includes a provision which says the church is willing to pay for any additional costs.

City officials have been told by the developer the tabernacle's

Revitalization Move

Salisbury 'Blight' Declared

9/25/84

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council passed a resolution Monday night declaring much of the downtown riverfront area "blighted," which could qualify it for future federal aid.

The action is another step in the city's efforts to attract a developer for a major revitalization project around the fork in the Wicomico River.

If such a major development package can be assembled, the council's action would mean federal aid in the form of grants and low interest loans could be sought to aid and speed up construction.

The resolution states much of the property in the riverfront area meets definitions of urban blight. Such a declaration makes planning for a major redevelopment project much easier, city officials said.

At least one Western Maryland firm has indicated a willingness to coordinate the project of developing a complex which the city wants to include a produce and seafood market area, restaurant, hotel, office building and housing overlooking the river. No formal commitments have been signed, however.

THE CITY already has plans to build a publicly-funded marina off West Main Street near the river's fork, a key component of the long-range plan to redevelop the riverfront area.

Council members hailed the research of staff members and consultants for their analysis of the targeted area. Fourteen of the 20 major buildings in the zone were identified as being beyond repair.

The district includes property within several hundred yards of the main branch of the Wicomico River and its north and east branches. The boundary of the triangular-shaped area stretches from near the South Division Street bridge toward Fitzwater Street and north to Route 50 and Mill Street.

Before the vote, two downtown area property owners testified that they were concerned about the specifics of the proposed development.

John Nason, a local lawyer, said he wants to purchase the G&K Warehouse on West Main Street, which he envisions refurbishing for use as an office building. But Nason expressed uncertainty about carrying through with his plans because the city is still unsure whether the comprehensive riverfront development plans can be carried out.

NASON URGED the city to speed up its negotiations with potential developers or risk losing the interest of the business community, which he said is supportive of the redevelopment concept.

F. Nash Strudwick, president of Tilghman Fertilizer, said his firm was opposed to the development because of fears the long-time riverfront industry might clash with the future uses envisioned for riverfront. Strudwick said he feared his company might be subjected to criticism because it produces dust, odor, noise and fumes.

WALTER C. ANDERSON
CITY SOLICITOR
132 EAST MAIN STREET
SALISBURY, MARYLAND

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS
FROM DEVELOPERS FOR RIVERFRONTS OF SALISBURY URBAN RENEWAL AREA

The City of Salisbury hereby invites proposals from developers to re-develop and/or re-habilitate all that Urban Renewal Area, or any part thereof, known as Riverfronts of Salisbury Urban Renewal Project, as established by Resolution No. 265, passed by the City of Salisbury, on Spetember 24, 1984, and which incorporates by reference a detailed Urban Renewal for the project area consisting of some nine pages and six exhibits, and supporting document. The area involved is generally described as that land on both sides of the Wicomico River, and the East branch of the Wicomico River, extending generally Northerly and Easterly from the vicinity of the former Banks Market to the library to the Library, and more particularly described in the public hearing advertisement previously published in the Daily Times on September 10, and on September 20, 1984.

This project land is to be made available in accordance with the terms set forth in Article SC 13-16 of the Charter of the City of Salisbury, and Resolution No. 265, creating the district. In accordance with the Charter and the plan, proposals should be made by those interested, on or before 11:00 o'clock A.M., on December 3, 1984. The charter of the City of Salisbury provides that the City accept the highest and best bid, or proposal, provided the bidder's responsibility is demonstrated by either a deposit of 10% of the bid price, or a satisfactory bid or performance bond, or bond, and that thereafter, the municipality may execute and deliver such contracts, deeds, leases, and other instruments, and take all steps necessary to effectuate the transfer. Compliance with this provision shall be required at the time of approval and execution of the final disposition agreement.

Developers are requested to provide information, such as the developer's firn name, address, telephone, the names of principals who would participate, a summary of the qualifications of the developer or the entities who would be involved, a narrative statement describing the character and size of the development proposed. This should include all uses proposed for the project and the amount of space to be devoted to each use, financial information to establish the approximate net work of and/or liquid assets available to the developer, and a statement indicating the total of all projected development costs, and the sources, or financing of all anticipated funds to meet those costs, and a definite disposition and development agreement which (a) commits the Redeveloper to purchase all privately developable parcels within the Area, whether currently owned by the City or intended to be acquired hereafter; (b) provides a proposed time table for the acquisition by, the City, and the reacquisition by the Redeveloper, of each such parcel within the redevelopment area; (c) sets forth a method for defining a current obligation on the Redeveloper to purchase property to be acquired in the future, notwithstanding the fact that the acquisition price to be paid by the City is currently unknown; (d) specified the proposed price, and terms of payment to the City, with regard to each parcel to be reacquired by the Redeveloper, giving regard to the provisions of the City Charter; (e) contains the Redeveloper's proposal for the method of completing a development plan, addressed to each parcel within the Area.

In evaluating development proposals in addition to such criteria as may be set forth in the proposal itself, the City Council intends to give priority to the proposal or proposals which addresses itself to the redevelopment of the entire Urban Renewal Area.

Bidding documents, including a copy of the Urban Renewal Plan, may be secured for the sum of Fifty Dollars ($50.00), at the Office of the City Purchasing Department, Room 305, Government Office Building, P.O. Box 791, Salisbury, Maryland 21801.

The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any irregularities, and to negotiate with the bidder so that the award can be made in the best interests of the City. The proposed Agreement so submitted must be signed by an authorized representative of the Redeveloper, and must not be subjected to any conditions for the acceptance and execution by the City, should the City so elect. The selected Redeveloper will be granted exclusive negotiating rights for a period of sixty days following notification of selection. The City reserves the right, however to reject, modify, or amend the proposed Agreement submitted by the selected Redeveloper during the period of exclusive negotiation rights, provided such changes are mutually agreeable to the City and the selected Redeveloper.

Sealed proposals will be accepted in the Office of the City Purchasing Department until 11:00 A.M. on Monday, December 3, 1984.

By Order of the Council
Patrick J. Fennell
Executive Secretary

10/2, 16, 30 84

Salisbury Will Spend $1 Million

10/31/84

Developer Sought For Marina Project

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The City of Salisbury today begins a month-long search for a firm which will stablize about 1,000 feet of riverfront along West Main and Fitzwater streets as the first step in the development of a downtown marina.

By the end of November, the city hopes to hire a contractor who can begin construction on a 48-slip docking facility which will be the first major revitalization project west of the Wicomico River.

City officials estimate the entire project will cost $1 million — 65 percent of which will funded with grants acquired from the state of Maryland.

Installation of bulkheading and excavation work could be under way in early 1985 on the five acres of land stretching from the West Main Street bridge tender's tower to the north property line of the Tilghman Fertilizer Co..

Serious discussions about developing a marina surfaced shortly after Mayor W. Paul Martin took office 2½ years ago, when volunteers involved in the revitalization movement were looking for recommendations to utilize the city's waterfront.

Martin's endorsement of the project was soon followed by the city council, which recently authorized the use of bond money for property acquisition. The city anticipates spending about $370,000 on land acquisition alone.

MARTIN ADMITS THE price tag is hefty. But he and other supporters of the project see the marina as a catalyst which should stimulate other redevelopment projects in the downtown area.

"What you're buying is an image" Martin said. "If it does what we think it can, then it will be well worth the investment."

If the project evolves according to plans now on the drawing board, the facility should be completed by the fall of 1985.

In the meantime, the city will be weighing several proposals on how to operate the marina and develop the city-owned land that overlooks it.

At this point, Martin is unsure whether the marina will be a city-run facility or will be leased to someone who would manage it as part of a package deal that could include a restaurant and possibly other marine-related businesses like boat maintenance and fuel service.

Martin said he is ready for critics who might question the wisdom of spending $1 million on a project that he acknowledges "won't pay for itself."

Martin points to the City Park, which was purchased by the city early in this century by foresighted elected officials who envisioned the land being developed for recreational use. In the city's current budget, $320,000 is set aside for maintenance and upkeep of the zoo — with no identifiable source of income from the park. Marina use fees, on the other hand, will be charged, yet no schedule has been developed.

LOOKING FOR A DEVELOPER
MAYOR MARTIN ON WATCH!

11/4/84

ADVERTISEMENT
FOR BIDS
RIVERFRONTS OF
SALISBURY MARINA
PHASE I

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Salisbury until 10:00 A.M. (local time) on Wednesday, November 21, 1984 for Phase I, RIVERFRONTS OF SALISBURY MARINA, CONTRACT 10-85-M.

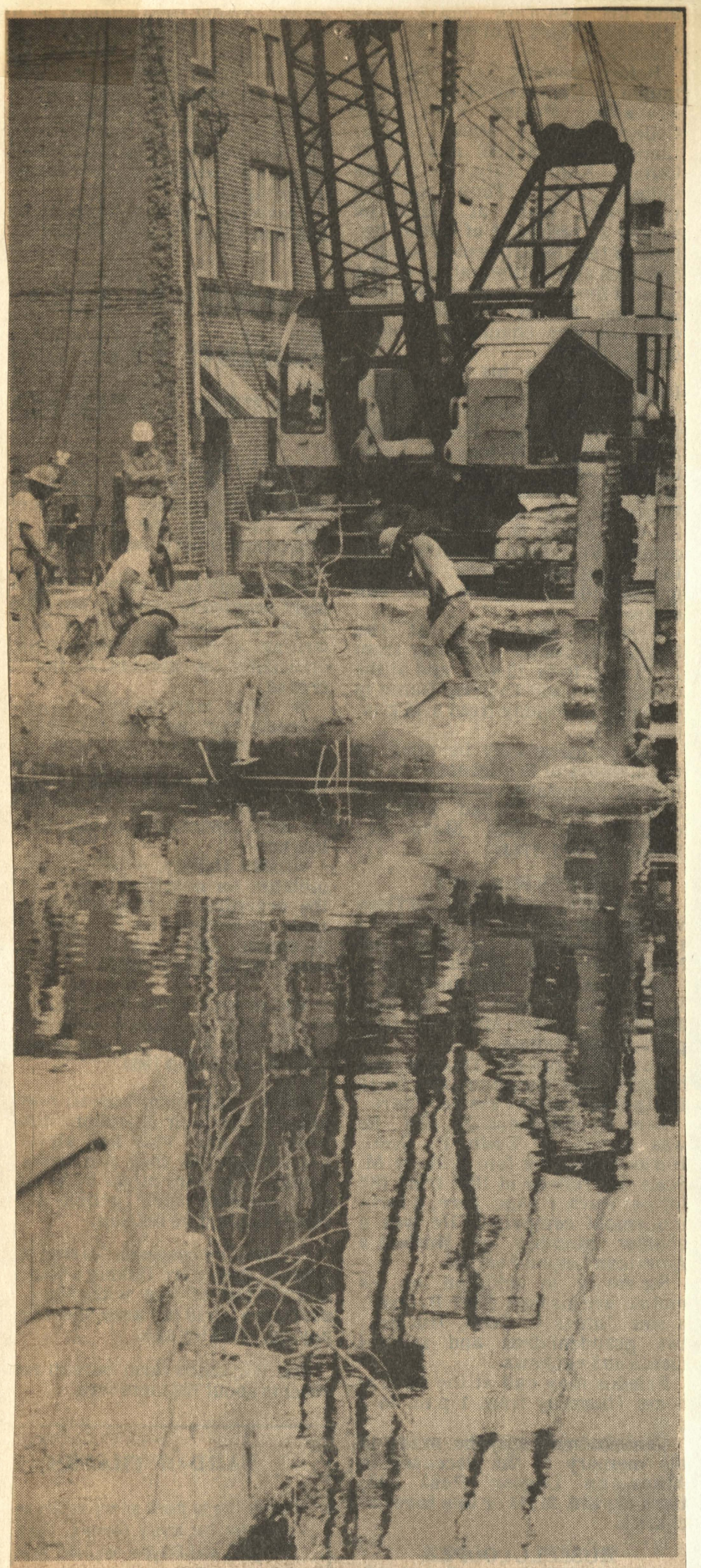
A pre-bid conference will be held at 11:00 A.M. (local time) on November 14, 1984 in the City Engineer's Office, Room 202 Government Office Building, 125 N. Division Street, Salisbury, Maryland.

Interested bidders may secure copies of bid documents from the Office of the Purchasing Agent, Room 305, Government Office Building, P.O. Box 791, Salisbury, Maryland, 21801. A non-refundable deposit of $25.00 payable to the City of Salisbury is required for each set of bid documents.

CITY OF SALISBURY
Denwood Todd
Acting Purchasing Agent

11/5, 6

11/6/84



LANDMARK RAZED. Workmen remove concrete footing that once supported the Camden Street Bridge in Salisbury which had deteriorated beyond repair over the years. (Times Photo by Brice Stump)

10/24/84

Camden Bridge To Be Closed

SALISBURY — The Camden Street bridge in downtown Salisbury will be closed permanently starting Oct. 8 as the schedule for its demolition draws nearer.

Matt Aydelotte, an engineer with the city's public works department, said the span will be blocked off to both vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Aydelotte said the action is being taken now because the firm selected to remove the bridge is prepared to start on the project next week.

The bridge's demolition is another step in the city government's plan for downtown revitalization, which is currently focusing on redevelopment of the riverfront.

10/24/84

City To Apply For $40,000 Grant

SALISBURY — Salisbury's planning office has the city council's endorsement to apply for a $40,000 state grant.

The money would be used to prepare an outline of how the local government will comply with new policies under study on how the state should regulate future use of land along waterways which flow into the Cheseapeake Bay.

The grant program is part of the controversial "critical areas law" enacted earlier this year by the legislature. Salisbury officials initially were opposed to the bill because they feared local control of development would be taken over by the state. The grant money program was incorporated in the bill to make the land-use review a shared responsibility of local and state governments.

City Annexes Small Piece Of Property

SALISBURY — A 1.75-acre piece of property on the corner of South Schumaker Drive and Beaglin Park Drive is now inside Salisbury's city limits.

The city council this week annexed the land so it can developed as the site for a new fire department substation.

The city already owned the undeveloped land for years but it had never officially been incorporated within the city limits. Several months ago, the council borrowed some $200,000 to pay for the construction of the building which has been a top-priority request of the fire department for several years.

A2 THE DAILY TIMES Salisb

City To Flush Water Mains

SALISBURY — The Department of Public Works here will be flushing the city water mains Oct. 24-26.

To minimize inconvenience, the system will be flushed between 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. nightly. Public Works director Kenneth M. Haensler said there will be no interruption of service, but some discoloration of the water supply may be expected.

If that should occur, he said the water can be cleared up by letting a faucet run for a short while.

Fish Kill In Tributary Probed

10/27/84

SALISBURY — The Maryland Waste Management and Water Management administrations are investigating a fish kill at Copy Cox Branch here.

According to authorities, the city public works department reported Thursday that between 200 and 300 fish were found dead in the Mitchell's Pond tributary.

Investigators believe the kill may have been caused by an oxygen defiency in the water. However, there is a possibility that industrial dumping could have caused the fish to die, according to a spokesman with the Waste Management Administration.

Lime Is Used To Rid Pond Area Of Stench Created By Fish Kill

11/4/84

By CHARMAINE CULVER
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The Wicomico County Health Department is still investigating a fish kill at Mitchell's Pond here that was reported last week. Meanwhile, the city public works department has taken action to relieve the odor caused by the more than 300 dead fish.

Salisbury Public Works Director Kenneth M. Haensler said a chemist has found ammonia present in the water along with an oxygen defiency. He said the health department is still trying to determine where the ammonia came from.

It is suspected that the ammonia may have been discharched into the branch by a nearby industrial plant. However, Haensler said the health department reported it doesn't have enough evidence to convict anyone on pollution charges.

Haensler said his department distributed lime over the pond Thursday to hasten decomposition of the dead fish and to relieve the stench. "We felt a responsibility to our citizens to do something when no one else would," he said.

In addition, he said his department is willing to monitor the pond during the winter for high levels of ammonia. When it is safe, he hopes the state fisheries department will consider restocking the pond in order to maintain a natural balance.

10/28/84

Getting To Know Salisbury's Bridges

Welders and riggers in recent days have been busy cutting up and removing a Salisbury landmark — the steel drawbridge over the fast prong of the Wicomico River at Camden Street.

A similar bridge — indeed its twin — was removed from South Division Street a couple of years ago and a modern vehicular bridge replaced it.

Richard W. Cooper, a civic engineer and surveyor in Salisbury, recalled that they were built about 1912. The drawbridge at South Division Street replaced a dam which washed out about 1909. That event drained what was known as Humphrey's Lake, a quiet body of water which backed right up to the edge of the Wicomico County Courthouse and what is now One Plaza East.

Salisbury business interests seized the opportunity for development when the lake spilled into an area known as "The Meadows." This was eventually dredged and bulkheaded, forming what became the east prong of the river, clear up to present Route 13 where small tankers once delivered oil and gasoline to a tank farm nearby.

The county built both bridges, one to replace the dam and the other to replace a wooden bridge which connected downtown Salisbury with the Camden section.

Cooper's father-in-law, Horace M. Clark, the county's fire roads engineer, built them. They were a county project under the guise of the "courthouse connection." Division Street led to the Worcester County courthouse in Snow Hill and Camden Street to the Somerset County courthouse in Princess Anne.

Both drawbridges were served by one tender. "He used to open one for a boat, then jump on his bicycle and ride to the other one to open that one," Cooper said.

Demolition of the Camden Street bridge has little or no meaning for newer generations. Downtown, rebuilt after the fire of 1886, has been rebuilt again, with a big parking lot. Yet, the Camden Street site was once busy with commerce.

There were several stores nearby, including a barber shop which seemed to sit out over the water. Small freight boats tied up there, loaded with watermelons or oysters in season. There's an early century photograph showing dozens of sloops and schooners tied up near the crossing.

Kenneth Haenseler, director of the Salisbury public Works department, said there are plans to replace the old drawbridge with a footbridge, tied in with an extension of Riverwalk, already on an attractive part of the new downtown.

Scratch Pad
Dick Moore

PEOPLE PATTER

Lewis McBriety, the Salisbury native and onetime school teacher, sends greetings from West Palm Beach, where his yawl, Inspiration, is permanently docked. He lives aboard.

His letter described how Hurricane Isidore came upon him and other yachts in the marina where he docks at West Palm Beach. Their owners had spent the previous 24 hours getting ready for the blow and high tides.

When it hit, sails blew away. The docks were strewn with a maze of criss-crossed nylon rope. One yacht, the Wenona, was parked a block away, a fact which promoted him to remark, "A Wenona with no skipjacks."

One yacht's lines were simply to light to withstand the blow. He likened them to "thin enough to be used for needlepoint."

An exaggeration, perhaps, yet surely graphic.

When the work of tidying up was over, McBriety stoked a fire in the fireplace aboard his yacht to "ward off the chill," as he returned to a repast of "Sanka and meatball hogies."

In summers past, he has spent much of each summer aboard Inspiration at the Salisbury-Wicomico boat ramp behind a convenience store. He didn't make it this summer.

And, speaking of needlepoint and embroidery, a Snow Hill man's hobby is just that. Gary Hales says he took up embroidery as a hobby some years ago. It was an interesting way to spend his free time, he said.

He said he has a repertoire of eight or 10 stiches now. A few months ago, he said he read about a project of the Kidney Foundation of the Eastern Shore. It was sponsoring a birthday quilt to commemorate Maryland's 350th birthday. He joined the effort.

He has been busy embroidering names of co-workers and sponsoring business firms on the quilt in exchange for donations to the Kidney Fund.

A book on the history of Worcester County people is being compiled by Bill and Kitt Matthews. The emphasis will be on pictures, they said, because much of the county's history has already been written. A brief history of each community is planned.

Kitt Matthews grew up in Berlin and Ocean City. Her father, Edgar Gaskins, has written a history of Ocean City. Bill came from the Pocomoke City area. They now live in Springfield, Va.

Chamber Calls For Waste Plan

11/9/84

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce is calling on the City of Salisbury and Wicomico County to form a partnership in mapping out a countywide plan to handle future needs for waste water disposal.

A letter which went out to local elected officials today urges both governments to consider creating a joint authority the chamber believes should oversee administration of a comprehensive sewage treatment system.

The letter, signed by chamber president Tom F. McCarthy, said such a system would "establish a sound base for economic development and maintain the unique quality of life for all our citizens."

Chamber director William E. Postles said today the organization has "no specific proposals. We just hope it will stimulate some serious discussions."

The chamber believes the city should give serious consideration to relinquishing its own municipal sewage treatment authority and join the county in forming a "strong, central agency that could address the problems of waste disposal countywide in an affordable and efficient fashion," he said.

Waste treatment has been a frequent topic within the organization for several years, according to Postles, because it affects potential economic development.

Postles said the business leaders who belong to the chamber believe long-range planning should start now because "this isn't something you can do in a couple of years. It's going to take a lot of long, hard work and sacrifices.

"If this community is going to grow in an orderly way, then we believe we need to take the steps now to create a foundation for what's going to happen in the next 15 or 20 years and beyond," Postles said.

McCarthy's letter points out the county and its various communities have faced increasing problems in recent years in coming up with adequate ways to handle waste water collection, treatment and disposal.

The county council has been under pressure from state health officials to come up with a satisfactory and safe septic waste disposal method.

Sewer Authority Plan Supported

11/11/84

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Wicomico County officials are cautiously supportive of a proposal by Salisbury business leaders for the creation of an authority to manage sewer systems county-wide.

Both Salisbury Mayor W. Paul Martin and Henry S. Parker, the county council president, said they are willing to explore the suggestion by the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce but warned it will be a difficult project.

"I support the concept. But there are a lot of questions that need to be answered," Martin said.

"I'm willing to discuss it," said Parker, "You know me — anything for progress. That would be progress."

But Parker echoed Martin's observation that such a wide-sweeping proposal "needs plenty of study. We just can't sit down in an afternoon and come up with a plan."

MARTIN SAID a primary concern for the city would be reimbursement of its investment in the existing 108-mile network of sewer lines and the municipal sewer treatment plant.

The chamber of commerce proposal comes at a time when the city and county are already moving toward several joint municipal service agreements.

Within the last year, the city has agreed to allow the county to connect the Salisbury Wicomico County Airport to the city's sewer line at Shoppers' World.

Parker said that project's $1 million price tag for about three miles of sewer line ought to provide residents with an idea of how costly a comprehensive sewer service plan would be.

The city and county are also negotiating an agreement to build a special treatment plant for septic waste from rural homes and businesses not served by a municipal waste disposal system. The "pre-treatment" plant would be built adjacent and connected to the city's Marine Road sewer treatment plant.

The county council has been under pressure from state health officials to find an alternative method to disposing of septic waste at the Blackwater lagoon west of Delmar.

In addition, preliminary discussions have also been conducted between city and county officials about the possibility of extending the city sewer line along the north Route 13 business corridor.

THE CHAMBER letter, mailed Friday and signed by president Tom F. McCarthy, points out the county government and its various communities have faced increasing problems in recent years in coming up with adequate ways to handle waste water collection, treatment and disposal.

McCarthy said the local governments should be aware that a well-planned sewer system can be beneficial in attracting future economic development.

The town of Pittsville is in the process of installing a costly, controversial sewer system. On the other side of the county, Hebron commissioners are struggling to overcome opposition by environmentalists to get final approval for a sewer system they have been trying to install for nearly two decades.

THE DAILY TIMES

Edward C. White, Publisher and General Manager
Mel Toadvine, Managing Editor
Donald Brown, Advertising Manager Barbara Bradley, Classified Supervisor
James Mixon, Sr., Circulation Manager

PAGE 4 Salisbury, Md. Tue., Nov. 13, 1984

Do It Now

The Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce has proposed the creation of an authority to manage sewer systems county-wide.

This is a sweeping proposal and one that may spell the difference between future county growth and stagnation.

Salisbury and Wicomico officials agree the proposal merits study. There are, of course, many, many details to be worked out, including cost factors and reimbursement for existing facilities.

The city and county are already moving toward several joint agreements on municipal services.

As the chamber noted, there can be no doubt that a well-planned sewer system is beneficial in attracting future economic development. Commercial expansion will be stimulated as will residential growth.

Several towns in Wicomico County have installed, or plan, sewer systems; they are extremely expensive and place an additional burden on people barely able to pay existing taxes.

Salisbury officials are concerned about reimbursement of its investment in the existing 108-mile network of sewer lines and the municipal treatment plant.

There will be other difficulties as the chamber proposal is explored.

Wicomico County and various communities are facing increasing problems trying to come up with adequate ways of handling waste water collection, treatment and disposal.

The problems will not go away. In fact, they are going to get worse.

We support the chamber's proposal and urge county and city officials to begin work on it as soon as possible.

Extension Granted For Airport Work

11/9/84

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The New Jersey firm hired to install a sewer line to the Salisbury Wicomico County Airport has been granted another extension so it can complete work on the $1 million project.

The county council Tuesday approved Dec. 20 as the final deadline for the line to be connected to the city of Salisbury's sewer system which serves Shoppers' World on Tilghman Road and Route 50.

The original contract called for the project to be finished by the end of September.

Weather problems and equipment delivery delays hampered work in the early weeks of the project, according to Tony Pallandino, vice president of A.V.P. Contracting Co.

The extended deadline passed last week and Palladino found himself back before the council Tuesday explaining again why his firm is still having trouble finishing the job.

In a two-page letter, Pallandino said unstable soil conditions below ground level at the site of a key pumping station and more equipment delivery delays have prevented the company from meeting the Nov. 2 deadline.

Palladino said his company found "unforeseen subsurface conditions along Airport Road" that "can't be anticipated." Palladino assured the council the line could be "operational" by Dec. 20.

William B. Miles, an engineer representing the firm which designed the sewer line extension, said he could not support Palladino's request for another deadline extension. Miles repeated Tuesday what he has said in several previous reports — A.V.P. has not performed up to the standards his consulting firm expects of contractors who install utility lines.

Palladino said the project is 90 percent complete while Miles estimated A.V.P. has finished about 75 percent of the work.

Over the last several months, memos to the county council from Miles and city of Salisbury engineers have surfaced spelling out complaints about construction techniques A.V.P. has employed on the job site.

Nevertheless, remarks by council members indicated they were sympathetic to Palladino's plight and agreed unanimously to grant him one final extension on a motion made by Victor H. Laws.

The county government negotiated with the City of Salisbury to get sewer service at the airport as part of a master plan that calls for major commercial expansion at the facility. The hookup is seen as crucial to the economic development of an industrial park adjacent to the airport.

The council also agreed to pay A.V.P. $134,389 for work completed in October, a decision which raised expenditures on the project to $749,033.

The original contract called for general contractor to surrender $200 a day in penalties for failure to completed the project on time but so far that option has not been exercised. Council members indicated they would invoke the terms of the contract if the Dec. 20 deadline is not met.

As a result, A.V.P. faces the loss of nearly $60,000 in fees if it fails to meet the new deadline.

SPEAKER. Dr. Michael Robinson, center director of the National Zooligical Park in Washington, addressed the annual general meeting of the Friends of the Salisbury Zoo recently. He is shown here with Dr. Peter Crowcroft, on left, director of the Salisbury Zoo, and Randy Romblad, on right, who was re-elected president of the Friends of the Salisbury Zoo.

11/11/84

National Zoo Director Speaks In Salisbury

SALISBURY — Dr. Michael Robinson, director of the National Zoological Park in Washington, was the guest speaker at the annual general meeting of the Friends of the Salisbury Zoo in the Sheraton Salisbury Inn recently.

Approximately 150 Friends and their guests heard Robinson give an illustrated talk on "Life in the Tropics." Robinson's personal research on spiders in Panama, Africa and New Guinea, provided bizarre examples of the rich diversity of tropical creatures which he said will be lost forever if the tropical rain-forest is destroyed.

Officers were elected. They include: Randy Romblad, re-elected president; Betsy Cottingham, vice-president; Sydney Bryan, treasurer and Susan Jackson, secretary.

Elected to the board of directors were Val Bambanek, Betty Bateman, Steve and Karen Carey, Peter Crowcroft, John Deluca, Maria Hocker, Paul Kratzer, Maureen McNeill, John Phillips, Ruth Porter, Steve Pusey, Paul Rendine, Sandy Romblad and Charles Wingo.

An award for Outstanding Volunteer was presented to Sandy Romblad, who headed the committee responsible for the successful Zoo Appreciation Day Sept. 8.

The president reported that membership had been increased threefold in 1984 to 450, and a 1985 membership drive is expected to boost membership to 1,000.

Salisbury, Md. Fri., Nov. 30, 19

Friends Of Poplar Hill Mansion Named

SALISBURY — Eighteen people — four men and 12 women — have been appointed by the Salisbury City Council to serve as members of the "Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion" in 1985.

The list of women includes Barbara Payne, Jan Taylor, Betsy Wolfe, Sarah Long, Elva Owen, Margaret Bloodsworth, Betty Augustine, Carolyn W. Pryor, Peg Waesche, Jean Truitt, Margaret Stone, Suzanne Lord, Nancy Carey and Sara Williams. Arthur E. Williams, Dr. Robert McFarlin, James Truitt and Rob Withey are also on the list.

Williams will serve as chairman and the vice chairwoman will be Lord. Wolfe will be secretary and Owen will be the treasurer.

Ex-officio members are Patrick J. Fennell, Matthew E. Creamer, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Graham, Neil Carey, Robert Powell and Victor H. Laws.

Honorary members are Linus Ellis, Lynn Seidel, Polly Burnett, Julie Cavanaugh, King Burnett, Frank Malone, Margaret Pillsbury, Jane Ellen Mengason, Beulah Twilley and Bob Withey.

The "Friends" group act as volunteer caretakers of the mansion on Elizabeth Street, the oldest existing home in the City of Salisbury.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF SALISBURY MARYLAND

Veterans' Day holiday will be observed on Monday, November 12, 1984.

City offices will be closed and there will be no municipal garbage collection on that day.

Collection for those living south of the Wicomico River will be made on the next regularly scheduled collection date, Thursday, November 15, 1984.

Please have refuse out early on that day.

Alligator Stolen From Zoo

SALISBURY — A 3-foot-long American Alligator is missing from the Salisbury Zoo, and police said they are investigating the incident as a theft.

Police said someone apparently scaled a fence at the zoo, climbed over, and removed the alligator from a permanent display there.

The value of the missing alligator was estimated at $50.

11/13/84

success. The bottom line for breed-

Wicomico Council Willing To Discuss Sewer System

11/21/84

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Wicomico County Council members say they are willing to reopen discussions with the City of Salisbury about the possibility of forming a joint water and sewer authority.

The council Tuesday reacted to a letter the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce wrote earlier this month urging both governments to begin thinking about addressing the future problems of waste disposal.

The county council agreed it would like to meet in early 1985 with city officials about restarting talks on how a major water and sewer system could be created to serve citizens in densely populated areas of the county.

Salisbury Mayor W. Paul Martin said in a separate interview he was ready to go back to the negotiating table and would relay the county's interest in a January meeting to the city council.

According to the county council staff, the city and county had as recently as 1980 explored the possibility of forming a joint agency which would oversee administration of a major utilities service system.

During Tuesday's session, Councilman Victor H. Laws reminded the council the talks four years ago broke down when city officials were unable to agree on financial details of a formula which would have reimbursed the city government for its investment in the current municipal water and sewer system.

Laws said he recently turned over a massive file of notes to Martin that he had accummulated when the previous negotiations were under way.

Laws hinted, however, that since much of the research has already been done on the subject, the governments should be able to get down to serious discussions almost immediately.

The chamber of commerce sent both governments a letter which said its members have "become increasingly concerned about the community's requirements for a far-reaching waste water treatment facility."

The chamber's president noted that the outlook for future economic development would be greatly improved if a unified effort in solving waste disposal problems were to evolve.

"I'm going to put my full cooperation behind it — I'm speaking personally," said county council President Henry S. Parker, adding "I'm very pleased the chamber has taken this step."

City Council OKs Cut In Utility Rates

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

11/14/84

SALISBURY — The developers of a proposed regional health care facility off Route 50 and East Main Street have struck a deal with the Salisbury City Council to save on water and sewer service installation costs.

Dennis Nooner offered to pay up to $60,000 to cover the expenses involved in the installation of the utility lines to a 100-unit residential complex which be part of the Salisbury Regional Health Center adjacent to the Salisbury Nursing Home.

Nooner's offer came during a lengthy discussion with the city council this week on the meanings of definitions in the city's housing code.

As part of the health care facility, Nooner and his partner Irvin Bainum, want to build an "institutional apartment" building for elderly people who are on fixed incomes and have a need for on-call medical care.

Public works director Kenneth M. Haensler said his interpretation of the Nooner-Bainum proposal was that the building fell under the category of a multi-unit dwelling identical to other apartment complexes around the city.

As a result, Haensler said he thought Nooner and Bainum ought to be assessed routine "front foot" utility charges that would have cost the partners at least $100,000 as a repayment to the city for providing water and sewer to the building.

During the discussion, several city officials noted the developers are hopeful of making a profit with the health care center business. In the past, the city has not offered adjustments in utility installation costs to organizations that have built special-interest housing projects in the city.

An attorney for Nooner said his interpretation of the housing facility's definition would mean that Nooner was obligated to pay only $38,400 in "front foot" assessments.

Such assessments are charges the city passes on to property owners who hook up to municipal utility lines. Generally, single-family residential customers pay far less than the developer of a multi-unit facility.

Mayor W. Paul Martin broke the stalemate by pointing out that Nooner and Bainum would be developing a project that would help solve a major housing problem. Shortly afterward, council members decided Nooner's offer was a satisfactory compromise.

Developers To Pay For Line Relocation

11/16/84

SALISBURY — Developers of new construction will soon find the City of Salisbury will be demanding that they foot the cost of relocating utility lines.

The city council Monday night approved a change in policy recommended by the public works department.

The council was told the power and telephone companies have been billing the city when their utility poles have been moved to accommodate property under development that has been annexed into the city limits.

Salisbury, Md. Thurs. Nov. 15, 1984

News In Brief

Sewer Plant Work Approved

SALISBURY — The City of Salisbury has agreed to the terms of a contract proposal by an engineering consultant firm which has been working on recommendations to renovate the municipal sewer plant.

The city council Monday night OK'd the $508,175 proposal by Gannett Fleming.

In the next year, the firm will be working on design, construction engineering and start-up of the additional machinery at the plant which will solve such diverse problems as grit and grease removal, septic tank waste processing and phosphorus removal.

The source of funding is: federal and state sources, $274,840; Wicomico County, $113,420; and city, $119,915. The plant improvements include a special pretreatment plant that will enable the county to close a disposal site for septic waste dumping that the state health department says is unhealthy.

Man Denied Payment For Damages

11/16/84

SALISBURY — A North Boulevard resident whose basement suffered $1,900 worth of damage when a sewer main backed up several months ago has failed to convince the Salisbury City Council to reimburse him for his cleanup expenses.

Gilbert J. Thornton was told Monday night by council members he should take his complaint to his plumber, since the problem developed after some fixture work had been done in the bathroom prior to the sewer line stoppage that occurred in September.

Council members agreed with a presentation by the publics work department that the city has not been negligent in maintaining its sewer lines and that city codes require that plumbing fixtures have a "check" valve that prevents back flow problems.

Henry P. Wojtanowski, the inspections bureau director, said his staff could find no record of Thornton or his plumber obtaining a permit to do bathroom renovation work. Thornton said he was unsure whether his plumbing fixtures had such a "check" valve.

Thornton said he has lived in the home for more than 20 years and has never had a problem in his basement until this year. He also said his homeowners' insurance policy did not cover the cost of correcting the damage.

Public works director Kenneth M. Haensler said sewer line problems are common and have occurred in his neighborhood in the past.

Agreement Reached With Architect

11/12/84

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council reached an agreement Monday night with a city architectural firm which will design a new building for a church that is being asked to relocate to accommodate downtown revitalization.

Ciancitto & Associates submitted a proposal of $7,500 to design a new facility for the Tabernacle of Prayer on Mitchell and Parsons roads.

The church's move from its existing Lake Street location was worked out several months ago by city officials, who are tryng to assemble enough property along the Wicomico River to attract an investor who would coordinate a major downtown redevelopment project.

Firm May Not Meet Deadline

12/6/84

SALISBURY — The New Jersey firm installing the airport sewer line will be paid $89,292 for work it has done on the project in the last several weeks but one county official says the contractor will have trouble completing the work by the Dec. 20 deadline.

The Wicomico County Council approved the release of the funds to AVP Contracting Tuesday. The county still retains about $200,000 of the $1,036,000 it is planning to spend on the project. AVP had submitted a bill of $270,000, but the supervising engineer recommended the lesser amount be approved by the council.

Asked to assess the project, county roads engineer C. Kirk Banks said "I wouldn't be very confident they're going to finish on time."

Displeasure With Security Aired

12/5/84

SALISBURY — High-ranking state district court administrators have indicated to Wicomico County officials they are not pleased with after-hours security arrangements in the downtown Government Office Building.

The topic came up for discussion Tuesday during the county council meeting. Administrative director Matthew E. Creamer said he planned to have further discussions on the subject with the state officials.

The district court system is currently in the basement of the government building, where it will remain until the county begins construction on a new jail-courts building, already four months behind schedule.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY of SALISBURY

During the fall season, the City of Salisbury will collect leaves and pine needles on Wednesdays, from now through the month of December. This will be in addition to regular bi-weekly trash collection. Leaves and pine needles (shat) may be placed at the curb in plastic bags, metal cans or returnable baskets.

Citizens are reminded that it is unlawful to rake or sweep leaves and pine needles into the streets of Salisbury.

11/9/84

State To Pick Up Xing Tab

11/18/84

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The Maryland transportation department has decided to amend its policy of not funding improvements to railroad crossings, an action which could save local governments thousands of dollars in street maintenance expenses.

Department secretary William K. Hellman announced his decision in a letter sent to Salisbury Mayor W. Paul Martin last week.

"Because of the important safety considerations and the need to expedite safety improvements, I have concluded that it is in the best interest of the citizens of Maryland that the state provide the 10 percent matching share for this program," Hellman wrote.

LAST MONTH, MARTIN lobbied state officials to consider picking up part of the tab for improving railroad crossings.

Martin said the city regularly spends an average of $10,000 per crossing as its share of the cost for improvements.

The federal government currently pays 90 percent of the bill for such repairs, while the remaining 10 percent is the responsibility of either state or local governments.

The state used to pay the local share, but a policy change several years ago shifted the responsibility to local governments.

Martin made a pitch urging Hellman to consider a change back to the old policy when the new secretary visited Oct. 16 with local officials of lower Eastern Shore governments.

THE MEETINGS are scheduled annually to give local politicians a chance to express concerns about transportation problems in their jurisdictions.

Martin said "I'm very pleased with the decision. It shows if you make a reasonable appeal to the state, they'll listen and give it some serious thought."

Martin estimated at least 10 crossings in the city will need work in the near future.

Hellman said his agency will be evaluating the list of crossings in the Salisbury area to determine where the critical need for improvements exist.

MARTIN CREDITED Del. Lewis R. Riley, R-38th, and other Lower Shore legislators with providing key support in the lobbying efforts.

"I can't say enough about how those fellows helped. It'll free up a lot of money for local governments all over the Shore," Martin said.

Council Pleased With Rail Changes

SALISBURY — Wicomico County officials are pleased with news about a policy change by the State Highway Administration which could mean a savings of $10,000 every time a railroad crossing is upgraded.

The county council was told Tuesday SHA officials have decided to pick up the tab for such renovation work in the future, relieving local governments of the financial responsibility of paying the 10 percent supplemental share for such federal projects.

One official told the council the county had been paying about $10,000 each time a crossing is improved.

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PAGE 4 Salisbury, Md. Tue., Nov. 20, 1984

Good Decision

The Maryland Department of Transportation has announced a policy amendment that will save some cities and town thousands of dollars.

The federal government currently pays 90 percent of the cost for improvements and repairs to railraod crossings. The remaining 10 percent is the responsibility of the state or local governments.

The state at one time paid the local share, but several years ago shifted the burden to local governments.

The transportation department's announcement last week to pick up the local cost is a big help to some towns.

Salisbury, for example, has several rail crossings and spends an average of $10,000 per crossing as its share of the cost for improvements. Mayor W. Paul Martin estimates at least 10 crossings in the city soon will need work.

A state official said the policy change was made because of important safety considerations and the need to expedite safety improvements.

Martin had asked state officials to again pick up part of the cost of rail crossing improvements. The mayor praised Lower Shore legislators for their support.

The state agency will evaluate the list of crossings in the Salisbury area to determine areas of critical need.

The state's decision will free up a lot of money for local governments all over the Shore.

Riverfront Plan To Be Reviewed

12/5/84

SALISBURY — City officials here begin reviewing today a proposal from a Columbia, Md., businessman who wants to make over the downtown Salisbury waterfront.

Robert A. Fox, who has been courted by city officials for almost a year, submitted plans Monday which, if ever developed, would bring new retail establishments and housing to the riverfront and along West Main Street.

Mayor W. Paul Martin plans to make a presentation on the Fox proposal at the next city council session, Dec. 10. The entire project carries an estimated $36½ million price tag.

City executive secretary Patrick J. Fennell said the Fox proposal would utilized some 22 acres which the city council recently designated as an urban renewal area.

City Of Salisbury Ready In Case Of Severe Winter

11/23/84

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — City of Salisbury public works employees are ready to tackle a cold, snowy winter if it should develop.

Mayor W. Paul Martin was on hand Wednesday to review the fleet of vehicles the department uses to keep city streets clear during inclement winter weather.

Public works director Kenneth M. Haensler said his staff works hard each fall for several weeks getting trucks, plows and related equipment ready for the winter season.

"It's a big day for them — to show off how everything's painted up and working," Haensler said of the mayor's annual visit to the Lake Street facility where the equipment is housed and maintained.

Last winter was a relatively mild one for Salisbury, and the city spent only $5,000 of a budgeted $20,000 for winter weather emergencies.

This year, the department has a $15,000 budget for overtime pay and supplies.

THE CITY has 700 to 800 tons of salt in its inventory, and Haensler said he has access to another 300 tons if needed.

The city has six dump trucks fitted with snow plows and three trucks fitted with boxes used to spray the salt on the cleared streets.

Haensler said the city also has a new snow blower available.

"Our goal is to be prepared to respond if a snow emergency is called," Haensler said. "I think our guys are ready."

The city police department is responsible for calling a snow emergency, and main routes around the city are marked with signs.

Vehicles must stay off those streets during emergencies so emergency vehicles can operate on them without problems, a city police spokesman said.

City Employees Granted Days Off

11/29/84

SALISBURY — City of Salisbury employees will be getting a four-day weekend as part of a Christmas holiday package.

The mayor and city council decided Monday night to shut down the government Dec. 24, Christmas Eve. However, city officials also decided government offices should remain open Dec. 31. A revised garbage pick-up schedule is in the works and will be announced shortly.

Wicomico County employees have been granted days off on both Dec. 24 and Dec. 31.

Downtown Marina Builder Selected

11/28/84

SALISBURY — A well-known Delaware contractor has been selected by the Salisbury City Council to begin work on the proposed downtown marina.

A bid by George & Lynch was accepted Monday by the council. The first phase of the marina development carries a price tag of $648,000. Work should start in early 1985.

Council members Samuel W. Seidel and Martha K. Graham noted that acceptance of the contract signaled the start of one of the city's first major downtown revitalization projects. Mayor W. Paul Martin recently estimated the marina will cost $1 million to develop when all the construction and property acquisition bills are in.

First Step Is Taken On $36.5 M Project

12/12/84

SALISBURY — City of Salisbury officials have the go-ahead to start riverfront revitalization talks with a Columbia, Md., developer who counts television newsman Walter Cronkite among his financial backers and partners.

The city council here Monday night gave its OK to Mayor W. Paul Martin and his staff to start negotiations with Robert A. Fox, who last week submitted a proposal to coordinate $36.5 million worth of construction on 22 acres of downtown property. All of the land — which roughly runs from the Circle Avenue bridge west to West Main Street where it becomes Fitzwater Street — is within view of the Wicomico River and its two tributaries.

Those negotiations are expected to start after the first of the year.

Few specifics about the Fox proposal were revealed during the council session. City executive secretary Patrick J. Fennell said the Fox proposal was purposely vague so it could leave room for negotiations.

Councilman Robert A. Powell made a point of noting Cronkite is involved in the project to demonstrate the project has validity, he said.

Fox was the only developer to express an interest in an advertisement the city published seeking projects to step up downtown revitalization efforts.

Council attorney Walter C. Anderson reviewed the lone proposal and said it met all the criteria in the city charter, thereby clearing the way for the council to authorize negotiations which it hopes will lead to a major development package.

The city is already moving ahead with riverfront development on its own. It is paying for construction of a municipal marina off West Main Street that Fox has incorporated in his proposal.

The Fox project calls for renovation of many buildings in the West Main Street - Lake Street area. They would likely house retail businesses similar to those found in Baltimore's Harborplace and Lexington Market. The city either has acquired or has options to buy much of the property Fox included in his proposal.

Office space is also part of the proposed Fox package, as is riverfront development of housing along West Market Street.

A focus of the negotiations will be cost and financing. City officials have hinted they are searching for as much low-interest, government-backed financing as they can find to make the project more attractive to a developer.

SPECIAL NOTICE

CITY OF SALISBURY, MD.

Special arrangements have been made to collect holiday wrappings and boxes in addition to normal garbage on the regular collection days beginning December 17 and ending January 11. These materials should be placed in boxes, baskets or cans in such a way that they can be easily handled. Garbage must be placed in regular containers.

Due to changes in pick-up routes from December 27 through January 11 materials for pick-up should be at the curb by 8:00 A.M. Normal garbage regulations will be in effect after January 11.

December 24, 25 and Jan. 1 are City holidays; therefore, there will be no garbage collection on these days and City offices will be closed.

The Municipal Zoo will be closed on December 25, Christmas Day.

Christmas trees will be picked up in a special collection from January 2 through 8, 1985, except the weekend.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

MAYOR, COUNCILMEN and EMPLOYEES

Is Downtown Project A True Gem?

$36.5 M 'Riverfronts' Becomes Focus Of Salisbury Revitalization

Bill Robinson
Between The Lines

This May marks the fifth anniversary of the "R/UDAT" downtown revitalization movement in Salisbury.

R/UDAT is the acronym for Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team — groups organized around the country to help communities coordinate urban renewal. The program is a project of the American Institute of Architects.

After a fantasy project which suggested the Downtown Plaza be converted into a mall was rejected by the city council in 1979 — it had an estimated cost then of $50 million — a group of community leaders pushed hard for the R/UDAT approach.

It took a year of intensive lobbying to get a R/UDAT report and it's taken until now to get to the point where many of the suggestions in that report could become reality. The community was so excited about the prospects in 1979 that the downtown area would again become the true heart of the city, a capacity crowd showed up at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center just to hear what the outside experts had to say.

THE ROAD HAS been a long one and the journey sometimes painfully slow. The road ahead doesn't appear any smoother, either.

Now on the brink of the fifth anniversary, city officials are hoping that a $36.5 million proposal by a Columbia, Md., developer will be what James Rouse's Harborplace was to Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

The official name of the Robert A. Fox project is "Riverfronts of Salisbury." It could mean dozens of new retail businesses, office space and downtown residential living — all with a nautical ambiance.

Experts say a municipal waterfront can be magic. If that's so, we've got a whole Broadway show of possibilities.

If it should be developed, "Riverfronts" will drastically change the city's look and its impression of itself.

The Fox project surfaces at a time when many community leaders might just be more preoccupied with the holiday season and the outlook for the economy in 1985, when an unpredictable Ronald Reagan officially starts his second term.

OR PERHAPS, there's a bit of skepticism in the air.

"Can it happen?" And "What does Walter Cronkite's involvement (financially) mean?" are the question most frequently being asked.

Reaction to the project is probably best described by the trite phrase "cautiously optimistic."

People in the urban renewal business will tell you plans for a major overhaul as outlined in the original R/UDAT are always far too ambitious — there are always failures and set backs as well as successes.

Salisbury has had its share in both categories.

Many of the buildings have been renovated, thanks to an aggressive grant and loan program administered by the city and volunteers who continue to serve on R/UDAT committees.

Revitalization office manager Pete Cooper says investment in fixing up buildings probably exceeds $2 million and few ground level vacancies exist in the area bounded by the river, Route 13 and Route 50.

Now what is needed is something brand new. Sure, it would be exciting to see the Fox project becomes a reality.

BUT I'M LIKE a lot of other people — what will it mean to the local economy?

All you have to do is drive around town. Nearly every shopping center has vacancies. One new shopping center along Mt. Hermon Road is nearing completion and another is proposed along Route 50 just west of the city limits.

Just how many drug stores, card shops, pizza restaurants and convenience stores can this town support?

City officials point to the increased tax base downtown as the rationale for supporting revitalization efforts. But it could very well go up at the expense of other properties in other parts of the city.

And don't forget there's always Delaware — the state not too far away that allows its stores to be open on Sundays and doesn't charge a sale tax.

It's easy to be pessimistic ... who nows what impact the economy will have on the Fox plan three months or three years from now?

There are no answers. It's a lot like waiting for Santa Claus.

If you believe, it'll be a Merry Christmas.

If you don't, it'll be like a lump of coal.

But then again, if you put enough pressure long enough on a lump of coal, it becomes a diamond.

$36.5 M Salisbury Waterfront Project Could Begin In Spring

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The developer who has submitted a proposal to rejuvenate this city's downtown waterfront says he is confident the first phase of his project could be under way by late spring 1985.

Robert A. Fox of Columbia, Md., says the community's enthusiasm for urban renewal projects and its cooperative spirit make him eager to get started on the project that would put $36.5 million worth of new retail, office and residential construction in the downtown area.

If Fox's plan is developed, the city's waterfront around the fork in the Wicomico River could some day feature a hotel/convention center, a retail complex of small shops and a high-rise apartment building.

A committee of key community leaders and Fox are scheduled to meet after the holidays to begin final negotiations on how "The Riverfronts of Salisbury" will be developed. The city-imposed deadline for settlement on a final agreement is early March 1985.

SOME OF THE key points to be worked out are transactions involving property acquisitions and financing.

Fox said observations by some experts that the nation's economy is unstable and might inhibit investment in such a major project will not deter him from pursing the Salisbury project.

"The economy is strong," said Fox, explaining "this (development) business is really a frame of mind. You have to be bullish."

Fox said Salisbury elected officials and the R/UDAT revitalization volunteers exhude so much confidence and cohesiveness that he sees little difficulty lining up the financial backers to fund the project. In fact, Fox has already signed up nationally-known television broadcaster Walter Cronkite as a minority investor in the project.

"I've never seen anything like it in my life. There are people in government in major cities who could stand to go to a seminar that Salisbury could conduct on how to approach a project like this," said Fox, who once worked for a major Baltimore area developer.

"YOUR CITIZENS ARE very, very fortunate to have such good government people. For a community that size, they absolutely amaze me," Fox said.

Philip C. "Pete" Cooper, the city's revitalization coordinator, said he anticipates no hang-ups in the development talks. Fox agreed, saying during a telephone interview last week "I wouldn't have wasted a year working on this if I wasn't serious."

Cooper said Salisburians can realistically expect such extensive development to take at least 10 years to complete.

While specifics must still be hammered out, here is a list of some of the major projects envisioned by Fox:

•Adjacent to the $1 million marina the city plans to build off West Main Street would be approximately 50,000 square feet of waterfront retail space similar in concept to Waterside in Norfolk, Va., and Harborplace in Baltimore. That project is seen by Fox and city officials as a catalyst for all the other projects.

•Across the river from the marina, on property currently owned by Jerome A. Isear, Fox believes a hotel with convention facilities would be ideal.

•On the north side of West Main Street, on either side of Lake Street, Fox proposes renovations to most of the brick buildings, creating a retail complex in the mold of Baltimore's Lexington Market, a popular shopping area where vendors sell fresh produce and other goods.

•**NEAR THE SITE** of the intersection of West Market and Camden streets, an innovative landscaping technique would be utilized to create a pedestrian rest area that could double as an outdoor

(Continued on A3) 12/16/84

Salisbury Waterfront Plan Is Extension Of River Walk

(Continued from A1)

theater.

•On a portion of the large, city-owned parking lot that serves the Downtown Plaza, Fox has proposed construction of townhouses that would overlook the river at the intersection of West Market Street and Circle Avenue.

•Just east of Circle Avenue, also along West Market Street, Fox thinks he has found the ideal site for a high-rise, luxury apartment building, a restaurant and office space.

The Fox plan, Cooper said, would extend the concept of River Walk Park from its current termination point at South Division Street as far west as the Tilghman Fertilizer Co. One idea, for example, calls for a footbridge to replace the now-destroyed Camden Street bridge that would also carry pedestrians not only across the river but also over Mill Street to the proposed hotel property.

Much of the land in the development scheme is already owned by the city. Property not held by the city is currently the focus of negotiations, which will affect the outcome of the January talks between Fox and city officials.

EARLIER THIS year, the 22-acre riverfront tract Fox wants to develop was officially declared an "urban renewal area," a designation that gives the city the right to condemn property and pay fair market value for acquisition.

City officials are hoping to find low-interest, government-backed loans from state and federal sources to help Fox with financing.

While financial tools such as Industrial Revenue Bonds and Program Open Space grants from the state will likely be available in the future, the status of federal aid like that provided by Housing and Urban Development department programs could be cut by President Reagan and Congress because of budget deficits.

Fox said city assistance in securing financing "would be nice. But I not going to turn away if they don't come up with it. I feel confident we've got a strong enough project there to find the money we need to make it go."

Cooper said Salisbury's waterfront is "an underutilized, major resource."

"The water is a major attraction. If we didn't have the water, he (Fox) wouldn't be interested," Cooper said.

Most city officials acknowledge they are taking a gamble with such a project but publicly express confidence it has the community's support. The concept of a riverfront development package surface in 1980, when the R/UDAT movement got its start.

COOPER SAID most public reaction to the idea of focusing revitalization efforts on the riverfront continues to be positive. He said he believes most knowledgable Salisburians realize a successful development project will strengthen the tax base.

"The greatest problems for Salisbury's downtown have been around the waterfront," Cooper said. "It also presents the greatest opportunities for improvement."

Utility Service Policy Amended

11/29/84

SALISBURY — The city council here has acted to amend its policies governing installation of new utility service.

The council this week added wording to its water and sewer installation guidelines spelling out how front foot assessments will be decided in the future.

The change was prompted by a request earlier this month in which the owners of a health care facility plan to develop a residential complex and questions arose about which formula should be used to assess the firm for utility installation.

The new policy states the public works department and city council will decide on a "case-by-case" basis each proposal not covered specifically by zoning code regulations.

City To Sell Parking Lot

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council has agreed to sell a municipal parking lot to the state government for $550,000.

The 57,100 square foot lot, bounded by East Church Street, Poplar Hill Avenue and Old Water Street, is the projected site for a new state office building. The council approved the sale price Wednesday night.

City officials have been lobbying state lawmakers for several years to approve construction of a new building in the downtown area to help promote revitalization efforts.

Salisbury Zoo To Close For Holiday

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Zoological Park will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22, and Christmas Day, according to the director, Dr. Peter Crowcroft.

Engineer To Be Hired By City

12/84

SALISBURY — An engineer will be hired by the City of Salisbury to supervise new construction at the municipal sewer plant.

The city council Monday night approved a public works department proposal to hire an engineer on a contractual basis. The council will pay the employee $31,000 for the first year and if the engineer is retained when construction begins, his salary will be paid with the help of a state grant which will be used to pay for construction.

Public works director Kenneth M. Haensler said he has found a candidate to whom he would like to offer the position.

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Penalty Questions Not Decided

2nd Airport Sewer Deadline Passes

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — When it meets again next month, the Wicomico County Council faces the task of deciding whether it should penalize the contractor who has failed to complete installation of a sewer line from the City of Salisbury to the airport.

Thursday was the latest deadline for the A.V.P. Contracting Co. to finish work on the $1 million project and, according to the county's consultant, the firm is still several weeks from completing the task.

William B. Miles said "the major components (of the system) are in" but enough "odds and ends" remain that he will report to the council that the New Jersey firm did not meet its promise of finishing by Dec. 20. Miles did say, however, "significant progress" has been made on the project.

Miles, a partner in the engineering firm George Miles & Buhr which designed the sewer line extension, has been a leading critic of A.V.P.'s techniques of installing the line which will connect the airport to municipal sewer service at Shoppers' World 2½ miles away.

ACCORDING TO the original contract awarded last spring, A.V.P. faces a $200-a-day penalty for each day beyond the deadline that work is not completed.

A.V.P. president Tony Palladino has succeed twice in winning deadline extensions from the county council earlier this year.

The work was supposed to be done by Sept. 30, but Palladino said rainy spring weather and equipment delivery delays put his crew behind schedule. The council gave his firm an extension through the first week of November.

Palladine told the council Nov. 6 that unstable soil conditions near the airport further delayed his firm's efforts to get the work done. The council granted another extension, setting Dec. 20 as the deadline.

Miles said Thursday that A.V.P.'s installation techniques have been the cause of the latest delays. Palladino could not be reached for comment.

Through early November, A.V.P. had received just under $750,000 for work it had completed up to that point.

MILES ESTIMATED Thursday 90 percent of the project is completed. "From our vantage point, it's not yet operational," Miles said. He said he had not yet formulated an updated report or any recommendations he will likely be asked to present when the council convenes Jan. 8.

County roads engineer C. Kirk Banks said Thursday the road near the airport had been paved to allow two-way traffic once again. Airport Road near the airport entrance had been the site of heavy construction work throughout much of the fall. Banks said the road would be repaved again after the winter.

The county government is anxious to arrange municipal sewer service to the airport so it can push ahead with plans to develop an industrial park featuring firms that need ready access to air travel.

Airport Sewer Line Is Left In Quagmire

1/9/85

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The contractor building the $1 million sewer line from Shoppers World to the Salisbury-Wicomico County Airport has been told by the county council president his firm must complete the job by the end of this month.

"I want to hear that the sewer is finished by the last of January," said Henry S. Parker during Tuesday's Wicomico County Council session.

Parker, however, stopped short of saying what type of punitive action he would recommend against the AVP Contracting Co. if the sewer line is not ready by Feb. 1.

The contract between the county and AVP calls for a $200-a-day penalty for each day beyond the deadline the job is unfinished. If the council decides to invoke the terms of its contract with AVP, the New Jersey firm stands to lose as much as $18,000 because it is at least three months behind schedule.

THE SEWER LINE was supposed to be working by the end of September, but AVP's Tony Palladino won a month's extension of the original deadline. Palladino blamed weather and equipment delivery delays for the lack of progress.

Palladino won another extension — to Dec. 20 — in a subsequent council appearance after explaining his workers encountered unexpected problems during excavation work.

When the council granted the second extension, it warned it was not waiving the option of imposing the $200-a-day penalty.

The issue of just when the work would be finished was one of several during a lengthy discussion at the council session here Tuesday.

Palladino submitted a bill for $119,961 for work he said had been completed since the last billing.

HOWEVER, COUNTY officials and the county's sewer design consultant recommended AVP be paid only $69,525. The council narrowly approved that recommendation.

The vote to pay Pallandino any money at all ended in a tie that had to be broken by Parker. Council members Bruce W. Ruark and Victor H. Laws voted against the payment. After hearing the county engineering consultant give a less-than-complimentary report on the project's status and AVP's performance, Laws said, "I think it's a mistake to pay him anything further."

After that vote, the council approved a modification of the original contract. To serve four lots in the new Air Business Center industrial park, the council approved a proposal to pay AVP another $49,000 to hook up the properties to the new sewer line. In addition, George Miles & Buhr, the engineering firm which designed the sewer system, will be paid $5,000 for its work on the property hookups.

IN A RELATED action, the council approved the final $3,700 payment in the $18,500 contract with George Miles & Buhr for designing the 2.1-mile sewer extention. The council also approved a request by the firm to submit a supplemental bill of $2,800 for supervisory work its employees performed because the contractor has had difficulty completing the work on time.

The county still holds control of 10 percent — $103,600 — of the $1,036,000 originally earmarked for the installation project.

Cold Pipe Warning Is Issued

1/10/85

SALISBURY — The City of Salisbury's public works department has issued its annual reminder advising water service customers how to avoid the problem of broken pipes caused by cold weather.

Most broken pipe problems can be avoided, a public works advisory says, if precautions are taken. The list of recommendations includes such steps as:

•Enclose open crawl spaces and place some type of cover under porch areas where pipes are exposed. This will protect the pipes from cold winds.

•Insulate pipes in areas likely to feel the effects of freezing temperature (32° Fahrenheit).

•Allow a tap to trickle during very cold weather, especially at night when there is no water flow in the building for many hours.

•If a building is vacant, contact the city's water department (749-4731) for prompt turn-off service and then make arrangements to drain the system.

If pipes should burst in the coming winter months, customers should shut off the main valve immediately in order to prevent costly water waste. If the main valve cannot be located, customers should call the city's water department or the public works department (742-7101) during business hours in order to have the water cut off at the meter.

West Main Street To Be Closed For Work

1/13/85

SALISBURY — Beginning Tuesday and lasting approximately two to three weeks on a periodic basis, West Main Street will be closed to traffic from Mill to Fitzwater streets due to the demolition of some buildings in the area.

When it becomes necessary to block the street to traffic, it will be closed from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., according to a city police spokesman.

Agreement Reached On Utility Access

1/13/85

SALISBURY — In more preliminary work on the proposed courts-jail building scheduled for construction in downtown Salisbury, the city government and the Wicomico County Council have reached an agreement on access to utility services on public streets around the facility.

The county council this week approved a mutual pact with the city which would create easements for services such as water, sewer and electrical service between city streets and the county building, which will be erected adjacent to the downtown Government Office Building.

Criticial Areas

1/13/85

Local Officials Must Cope With Bay Cleanup Laws

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — A year from now, Maryland lawmakers will begin sifting through recommendations by the Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas Commission for controlling future waterfront development.

In the meantime, local government officials in counties which circle the bay are trying to make sense of the 1984 laws which sanctioned the cleanup initiative by the state government and created the commission.

In Wicomico County, local planning and zoning officials have prepared a report for the county council interpreting what impact the laws could have on future waterfront development.

THE BOTTOM LINE is fairly simple. If development of a piece of waterfront property requires a zoning change or code amendment, special exception, variance or a conditional use permit, the applicant is responsible for proving construction will not adversely affect either water quality or marine habitat.

Developers whose projects which fall into any of those categories will probably have to hire experts to help prove a proposal is not environmentally detrimental. The potential for confrontation with local regulatory boards — especially at a time when specific state guidelines are not finalized — definitely exists.

On the other hand, someone who only needs to fulfill the simple requirements associated with acquisition of a building permit is unlikely to encounter any major obstacles to development.

Until the 1986 General Assembly gets the Critical Areas Commission recommendations and enacts more definitive policies, local governments are on their own in trying to make sure development in their counties complies with the intent of last year's legislation.

WILLIAM C. LIVINGSTON, Wicomico County Planning and Zoning Director, said he sees no radical changes in the way his agency approaches its job despite what he calls ambiguity in the 1984 laws that set up the commission.

"In many ways, it's too early to tell just what the impact will be. We plan to keep doing things the way we always have — waiting to see just what the commission comes up with," Livingston said. "I can't see our county running into any problems."

Some 15 percent — or 36,718 acres — of Wicomico County's total land area lies within 1,000 feet of tidal waters in the Wicomico and Nanticoke rivers, making that property eligible for inclusion within the "critical area." About 45 percent of that 36,718 acres is considered tidal marsh or wetlands and probably would never be developed.

Similarly, about 15 percent of the land inside the Salisbury city limits lies within the critical area. Obviously, much of that land is already developed. Peninsula General Hospital Medical Center, for example, is within the critical area and would be affected by future development policy decisions by the legislature should its board of directors ever decide to initiate expansion of the facility.

A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT — such as the $36.5 million proposal for Salisbury's downtown riverfront — will definitely be affected by critical areas laws.

Despite what appears to be a small amount of land affected within Wicomico County, Livingston and his staff have drafted a list of issues they believe should be addressed by the Critical Areas Commission before it makes its recommendations to the legislature.

The list urges the state government to get specific when developing criteria on such issues as property location, enforcement authority, small scale vs. major development, regulatory powers and methods for appealing decisions.

The last issue recommends "innovative planning and zoning techniques be encouraged for use in the critical areas" such as larger lots and cluster housing.

Livingston said the critical areas legislation will have an impact locally in three areas.

He said the workload of local planning staffs "will jump tremendously. It will result in delays for applicants and it may require applicants to plan and design things differently."

Concerns Expressed Over Revitalization

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Several West Main Street businessmen have appealed to the Salisbury City Council to consider their plight when decisions are made to push ahead with a proposed major revitalization project along the Wicomico River.

Charles R. Jones told the city council here Wednesday night "I want to be there to enjoy revitalization" but that he is fearful new construction would force him to move his business from its current location.

Jones, a hairstylist said he had been in business on West Main Street for nearly 30 years and had built up a clientele which he feared might abandon him if he is forced to move. Jones was flanked by business neighbors Samuel Cornish, who runs a lounge, and Joe Sample, a barber shop operator. Both offered testimony similar to that of Jones.

The trio was accompanied to the council session by attorney Thomas Lilly, who urged elected officials not to move too hastily in condemning buildings and displacing occupants just for the sake of the proposed $36½ million project.

Jones said that responses he has received from several city officials have left him confused about the scope and intention of the riverfront project.

Council President Norman H. Conway said negotiations with the project's potential developer are still in the early stages, making it too difficult to predict right now how existing businesses along West Main Street will be affected.

Earlier this year, the city declared a 22-acre tract of land adjacent to the fork in the Wicomico River as "blighted," qualifying it as an urban renewal project according to federal guidelines. Under such circumstances, the city has the power to condemn property and give landowners compensation based on a fair market value for real estate.

Some businessmen own their own shops in the area while others are renters.

Jones said some of his fellow businessmen along West Main Street feel the city should make an effort to assure them they will be included in revitalization plans. Jones, Sample and Cornish all said they do not want to move from the immediate area.

Conway said the council will utilize a special relocation program if negotiations with the project developer are finalized. Conway said the council intends to be fair in any decisions which might affect the small businesses in the area.

Funds Sought For Playground

1/15/85

SALISBURY — Equipment for a new playground in the Newton Street-Camden Avenue area tops the list of projects the Salisbury City Council would like to see funded with a state grant in the coming year.

The playground equipment was one of five projects included in wishlist the council will send the Wicomico County Recreation Commission, which is soliciting requests for Program Open Space funding.

The other projects are construction of a pedestrian span to replace the Camden Street bridge, which was recently torn down. The council also included a proposal to acquire the Plaza Garden lot and development of a mini-park overlooking the proposed marina.

The Johnson's Lake Neighborhood Association is asking for funds to buy a small lot off Audrey Place that its members believe could be developed as a "neighborhood natural wildlife habitate conservation area."

School Water Found Unsafe For Drinking

1/16/85

By TOM LEONARD
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Students at Pemberton Elemntary School here are eating bag lunches and drinking water from coolers placed in hallways after health officials deemed the school's water supply unfit for human consumption.

Stacey Beauchamp, a supervisor with the Environmental Health Division of the Wicomico County Health Department, said he ordered water fountains at the Pemberton Drive school covered and shut down the school cafeteria Monday after tests showed excessive coliform bacteria levels in the water supply.

It was the second time coliform bacteria showed up in the school water supply in less than three weeks. Beauchamp said health officials first discovered the bacteria during routine testing late in December while students were out for the holidays. The water supply was "super-chlorinated," flushed and rechecked Dec. 31, and found to be safe, he said.

Results from follow-up tests made Jan. 8 and received last Friday again showed bacteria present, however, and Beauchamp said the decision was made to shut down all but toilet and sink water supplies.

EVEN THAT water will be re-chlorinated, he said, and the health department has asked the school to post warning signs and "monitor" elementary students who use the bathroom facilities.

The source of the contamination is unknown, according to Beauchamp, but he said the potentially-harmful bacteria is most likely leaching into the 35-year-old steel well from a crack or "fault" which recently developed. Routine tests as late as last April 10 showed no bacteria, he said.

After informing them of the problem Tuesday, school system Director of Logistics Anthony S. Sarbanes got approval from school board members to dig a test well at the school which could be made functional in two to three weeks if it struck "good" water.

The well will cost $3,000 to $3,500, he said, but the firm which will do the drilling has agreed not to bill the school system if water from the test well does not meet health standards.

Sarbanes told the board it should consider tapping the school into the Salisbury City water supply no later than 1987 as a permanent solution — a course of action that might still prove necessary now if the test well fails.

"FRANKLY, WE would prefer to see them tie in to city water," said Beauchamp.

Sarbanes estimated it would cost $50,000 and take two to three months to run a line from the nearest main at the intersection of Parsons Road and Pemberton Drive. The county council also discussed the school's water problem Tuesday, and considered several sources of funding for the tie-in.

Coliform bacteria can be found in decaying animal matter and sewage, but Beauchamp said tests of other wells in the area show no contamination and that he does not believe the nearby Salisbury sewage treatment plant on Marine Road to be the source of the problem.

Beauchamp said similar water problems have turned up at several restuarants in the county in years past, but not at any county school to his knowledge.

Pemberton Test Well Is Considered Successful

1/85

By TOM LEONARD
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The successful drilling of a test well at Pemberton Elementary School here means that water for drinking and cooking could again be flowing at the school in about two weeks.

But Anthony Sarbanes, the Wicomico County school system's director of logistics, said severe winter weather could delay that timetable for completion of a larger, 6-inch replacement well to be drilled on the same site and tied into the school's water system.

Water has been supplied in coolers since Wicomico County health department testers detected coliform bacteria for the second time in several weeks and labeled the water unfit for consumption 10 days ago.

THE SOURCE OF the bacteria has not been determined, but health officials suspect a break has developed in the 35-year-old well which allows seepage of contaminants from surrounding soil.

Sarbanes said the results of health department tests received over the weekend showed the test well tapped into safe, drinkable water. But he said Sunday's snowfall and subsequent near-zero temperatures have delayed drilling of the replacement well. Cost of the drilling is expected to be about $3,500, he said.

Sarbanes said he does not plan to recommend that the school board seek the estimated $50,000 which would be needed to tie the school into the nearest city water line at this time, if the second well proves satisfactory.

Water samples will also be taken from that well and tested before the supply is piped into the school, said Sarbanes. He hopes that can be done in two weeks so students can use the drinking fountains and cafeteria workers can prepare hot lunches.

Town To Sell Surplus Property

1/29/85

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council has OK'd a proposal to declare as surplus property three city-owned lots along Riverside Road.

The council was told Monday night the city's inspection bureau has been approached by a potential developer who wants to acquire the properties and build homes on them.

Council members were told by public works officials that the land is low-lying and susceptible to flooding. It is also soggy beneath the surface, a situation which could affect construction of a building's foundation. Nevertheless, the council approved a recommendation to advertise the lots for sale and ordered the city's staff to accept bids.

Land Annexed By City Council

SALISBURY — A small lot off Civic Avenue near the Mt. Hermon Road intersection has been officially annexed into the Salisbury city limits by the city council.

The council Monday night passed a resolution requested by the lot's owner, Milford W. Twilley. City officials were told last month only about 80 percent of the lot had been inside the city limits when Twilley discovered the problem while researching a tax map.

In March, the council will be asked to consider an ordinance which will declare the lot's zoning use as "light business and institutional."

High Water Bill Payment Delayed

SALISBURY — A city homeowner has convinced elected officials to delay the payment of an unusually high water and sewer bill she received in 1984.

The city council Monday night agreed with Charlotte H. Purnell and ordered an inspection of a meter which reportedly showed her home used 184,000 gallons of water during a three-month period. Her bill exceeded $360.

Purnell produced several documents from inspectors which showed the water system serving her Midland Terrace house did not have any leaks. Information provided Purnell by the water meter's manufacturer inspired her to ask the council for a special inspection of the mechanism, which was granted.

Help Authorized For Water Problem

1/15/85

SALISBURY — The Salisbury public works department has been authorized to help the Wicomico County school board solve a serious water service problem that now exists at the Pemberton Elementary School.

Department director Kenneth M. Haensler said Monday night that he has received an inquiry from the school system about the possibility of linking the school to the city's water system.

Haensler said about 1,000 feet of water line — at an estimated cost of $35,000 — would be needed. The school board also has a less expensive option of drilling a new well.

Pemberton School Gets Water As Of Monday

SALISBURY — Students will be able to buy hot lunches and drink the water at Pemberton Elementary School here Monday for the first time since it was declared unfit for consumption four weeks ago.

Wicomico County school system director of logistics Anthony Sarbanes said final tests on water piped into the school from a recently-dug new well were free of the bacteria which had forced cafeteria workers to prepare bag lunches at another location while students drank water from portable coolers.

Sarbanes advised parents hot lunches will once again be on sale Monday, with business as usual at the cafeteria.

A break in the old 35-year well which had been in use at the school is believed to have allowed contaminants to leak into the water supply.

2/8/85

CLEARING THE WAY. A bulldozer moves debris from buildings demolished to make way for a marina on West Main Street in Salisbury. (Times Photo by Brice Stump)

Downtown Marina

1/17/85

Buildings Are Razed As Salisbury Riverfront Project Gets Under Way

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Work on the downtown marina here has gotten into full swing this week with the demolition of an abandoned building along West Main Street.

In the next few days, workmen will be razing two other buildings down river from the bridge tender's tower.

The project's first phase is expected to take 6½ months to complete, according to terms of the construction contract awarded by the Salisbury City Council last month.

George & Lynch of Dover was selected over six other firms to build the marina, which is being touted as a keystone of the downtown revitalization movement. The idea of constructing some type of boating facility near the fork in the Wicomico River was proposed in the 1979 Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team report.

GEORGE & Lynch will be paid $650,370 for clearing, excavating and bulkheading about 1,000 feet of riverfront property. The winning bid was $37,380 less than an engineer's estimate.

City officials are involved in negotiations with a Columbia, Md., man who has proposed a $36.5 million development along the river which would incorporate the marina as part of a revitalization package.

With an estimated $370,0000 for land acquisition figured in, the city anticipates spending nearly $1 million on the project. Some state grant money — provided through Program Open Space — was used for property acquisition.

Work crews have already gotten a quick start on site preparation. A sizeable number of large trees have been uprooted, and piles of dirt have been moved into place. Architect's plans for the marina call for some of the land to be excavated, creating a cove away from the river's main channel.

Sometime in the spring, the city will advertise for contractors to work on the second phase of the project, according to Thomas D. Plotts, the city's assistant public works director.

The second phase will involve installation of electrical service, fuel storage tanks and city utilities.

City officials are involved in negotiations with a Columbia, Md., man who has proposed a $36.5 million development along the river which would incorporate the marina as part of a revitalization package.

OFFICIALS ARE uncertain whether the marina will be city-run or leased to the developer or to some other businessman who would operate it.

In addition to an estimated 48 slips for boats of all sizes, the marina will likely include marine-related businesses for boat repairs and a refueling depot. A proposed restaurant and retail shops have also been discussed.

Plotts said the foundation work on the marina — primarily stabilization of the land and bulkheading — should be completed by late summer. The project's second phase could then be completed in the final months of this year, leaving the spring of 1986 as a realistic date for the facility in operation.

Even though it is being built on a tidal river, the marina project should not be affected by laws associated with the 1984 Chesapeake Bay cleanup program, according to William C. Livingston, director of the city's planning and zoning agency. The project was approved by local and state agencies before the laws were enacted.

Because the marina construction involves dredging that utilizes some state funding, Livingston said the Department of Natural Resources is already aware of the scope of the project and is monitoring it.

Bulkheading Plan Amended

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — After 40 minutes of debate, the Salisbury City Council Monday night decided to spend an additional $10,500 of city money on bulkheading around the proposed new marina downtown.

The council approved the additional expense after listening to a proposal to modify the layout of the bulkheading near the West Main Street bridge.

The city has already committed nearly $263,000 to the first phase of the project to stabilize the river front off West Main and Fitzwater streets. An identical amount of state grant money is also being used for the project.

Councilman Norman H. Holland said he was opposed to the change in configuration of the shore stabilization plan because the shipping channel at the bridge was narrow and he feared the new design would inhibit waterborne traffic.

Nevertheless, council members Norman H. Conway and Robert A. Powell said they agreed with the modification plan and voted to approve it. Council members Samuel W. Seidel and Martha K. Graham did not attend the meeting.

THE CHANGE was actually a recommendation by Robert A. Fox, the man who has submitted a $36½ million proposal to develop the city's waterfront at the fork in the Wicomico River.

Downtown revitalization coordinator Philip C. "Pete" Cooper said the change in the configuration of the bulkheading was suggested by Fox's architect, who is working on plans that would compliment the city-run marina.

All told, the modification will cost about $21,000. The city expects to get a supplemental matching grant for shoreline stabilization from the state.

In addition, Cooper said the state would pay about $6,500 extra for dredging that must be done to accommodate the adjustments for bulkheading.

1/29/85

Marina Contract Awarded

2/26/85

SALISBURY — A local engineering firm has been hired by the city to complete the final phase design of a $1 million municipal marina now under construction along West Main Street.

The city council Monday night approved a proposal by the public works department to hire Davis, Bowen & Friedel at a fee of $18,200. Department director Kenneth M. Haensler said Mathew J. Aydelotte Jr., a former city engineer who worked on the early stages of the marina project, is now employed by the engineering firm and would be the man who would handle the design chores.

Haensler pointed out Aydelotte's expertise would enable construction to stay on schedule. City officials are hopeful the marina can be ready for use by the spring of 1986.

The first phase of construction — targeted for completion by September — involves excavation, dredging and pier construction.

The second phase will involve the development of plans for city utility service, landscaping, street lights and pavement layout.

Council President Sees Waterfront Project As Key

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — A team of community leaders has been meeting privately since the first of the year with a Howard County businessman who emerged in late 1984 as a developer willing to remake Salisbury's downtown riverfront.

The team's goal is to work out details of property ownership transactions, construction financing and establishing common revitalization goals which would clear the way for an estimated $36½ million project that promises to restore the city's downtown area as the region's commercial and cultural center.

After nearly five years of preliminary work, city officials and a group of revitalization volunteers believe they are close to reaching an agreement with a developer who can deliver a major urban renewal project to the downtown area.

Robert A. Fox's vision of downtown Salisbury would result in a construction boom over a projected 10-year period that supposedly will blend new office space, clustered residential living, cultural activities and commerce generated by dozens of small business — all with a nautical atmosphere.

WHETHER THE FOX plan can actually be developed remains a major question mark in the minds of many. As is the case with such major development plans which involve government participation, details of the highly-sensitive negotiations are closely-guarded and rarely revealed until finalized.

But city council President Norman H. Conway, a member of Salisbury's negotiating team, said the Fox plan — now being called "The Riverfronts of Salisbury" — is "still a long way from becoming reality" but is "reachable."

Conway said the city government is committed to riverfront development no matter what the outcome of the Fox negotiations.

He points to the marina along West Main Street now under construction. The city is spending $1 million to build a public facility that should be ready for use within a year. Conway calls the marina "a catalyst for change" that is expected to stimulate further urban renewal activity whoever the developer is.

"We feel very strongly, for a number of reasons, that the Westside has to change if the downtown is going to move forward," he said.

Conway said some type of announcement from the Fox negotiations should be ready by mid-April. Meanwhile, Conway remains confident Salisbury has all the "intangible" ingredients needed to stimulate an ambitious urban renewal project.

THE TRACK RECORD for cities with a dormant or dying waterfront is clear. Urban renewal utilizing construction overlooking water has proven to be successful all around the country.

Conway said the potential of riverfront development combined with Salisbury's image as lower Delmarva's hub city located at the crossroads of routes 13 and 50 are all viewed as major selling points.

"What we want to do is create a new image — take advantage of what we've got and make it better," Conway said.

Conway said the city's negotiating team has taken a hard line in discussions with Fox and his associates.

"There are some things that we believe are essential" that must be included in any agreement with a developer before work can be started, Conway said.

Because of the sensitivity of negotiations, Conway would not elaborate on details but pointed to such issues as availability of parking, city services like water and sewer and public access to the riverfront.

Conway acknowledged there is skepticism in some circles about the Fox proposal.

"YOU'VE GOT TO build for what's down the road and hope what you're doing is on target," he said. "You can't afford not to be looking ahead or pretty soonyou fall behind."

Early in his political career, Conway supported construction of the city's first parking garage. The structure was roundly criticized for being a waste of taxpayers' money, yet today it is used extensively and Conway said downtown parking today is "at a premium."

He attributes the increased demand for parking to the R/UDAT revitalization efforts designed to make the downtown area a community focal point.

Conway said all the revitalization ground work and an economy on the rebound should make Salisbury a prime candidate for redevelopment.

With federal lawmakers looking to trim a burgeoning budget deficit, Conway said any government aid that might be used in riverfront development will have to be in the form of loans rather than grants so "the money can be reused over and over. It's the way, I think, our council wants to go."

Conway said financial details of the Fox plan are still sketchy, but it appears the project will be financed privately.

THE CITY, nevertheless, will be faced with increased spending in the form of new street and sidewalk alignments, water and sewer, lighting, fire and police protection. The price tag of those services are influencing the city's negotiating position with Fox, Conway said.

If major construction is undertaken in the city's downtown area, property values will obviously escalate, which in turn means tax revenues will also rise. Since the 1980 R/UDAT study, local real estate firms say their agents have seen a steady increase in property values.

Construction and new commerce will mean more jobs. With a new image downtown, Conway said promoting economic development should become an easier chore.

Conway said Wicomico Countians will benefit from downtown redevelopment because it should mean more tax revenue for county coffers — which should give government officials more flexibility in holding down property tax rates.

The spinoffs, in Conway's opinion, are seemingly endless.

"It's not a dream," he said, "we've got to plan for the future and sometimes you've got to be a little bold. I'm sure it's going to take us a lot of time to get to the point where we're starting to see results."

The key, Conway said, is for community leaders working on the riverfront project to keep one goal in mind.

"I like to think of Salisbury as a place where we have a 'family community.' I don't want us to get so big that we lose it. Then, it just wouldn't be Salisbury," he said.

Salisbury Office Building Proposed

2/12/85

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Edward G. Banks is considering a plan to build a new office building overlooking the Route 13-East Main Street intersection and hopes the city will endorse his idea.

Banks unveiled his priliminary plans at Monday night's city council session because he's also interested in having the property included in one of the city's two downtown parking districts.

A multi-story building on the site of what was once an Exxon gasoline service station would require an ample amount of parking, based on the structure's total area.

Banks has asked the council to consider including the 36,000-square-foot lot in a specially-taxed parking district so he would not have to meet all of the off-street parking requirements in the city zoning code.

Parking District Two includes most of the municipal parking lots between Division Street and Route 13. Downtown landowners pay a special parking district tax to help retire the bonds that were used to construct municipal parking lots.

Banks said he would not mind paying the additional tax if the city council would agree to include his property in the district.

A majority of council members indicated they favored the proposal but also agreed that some legal research was needed.

Councilman Samuel W. Seidel and Mayor W. Paul Martin, while not openly objecting, indicated that Banks' proposal would require plenty of debate.

Both said they thought the legal questions Banks' request raises might be difficult, if not impossible, to solve.

Banks said he wants to construct a 15,000-square-foot building on the lot so he and his law partners can relocate their offices there and also rent some additional space.

Martin questioned whether establishing several businesses on the lot might not be a hazard to public safety, since the intersection is considered by many to be one of the busiest on lower Delmarva.

Council Rejects Loading Zone

2/26/85

SALISBURY — The city council here has decided against creating a special loading zone along East Market Street to accommodate deliveries to a hardware store.

Council members and property owners debated for 25 minutes Monday night the merits of eliminating at least two metered parking spaces before Mayor W. Paul Martin volunteered his opinion that the existing "double parking" method currently used by delivery men poses no serious traffic problem.

The idea for a loading zone was suggested by the public works department and police in the wake of recent amendments to municipal parking laws which have been enacted to crackdown on parking violators and free up space for downtown visitors.

Tax Hikes Feared

Cuts Could Force Local Increases

2/5/85

Compiled By The Times Staff

Counties and communities on Delmarva could be forced to raise taxes if Congress approves President Reagan's recommendation to phase out federal revenue sharing after 1986.

That was the near-unanimous assessment of local officials reacting to the president's proposed budget sent to Congress Monday. All agreed that the loss of those federal funds would have the most significant local impact of all the domestic spending cuts the president is proposing in his new budget.

Revenue sharing is a program which provides local governments with grant money based on population and other demographic factors. The federal government puts no stipulations on how the money is used.

The City of Salisbury receives approximately $500,000 a year from that program and uses it for a variety of capital improvement projects. Wicomico County gets just over $1 million, which is usually designated for debt retirement.

Salisbury Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr. said the loss of revenue sharing would probably mean an increase in property taxes, if not this year probably the following year. Wicomico County Administrator Matthew E. Creamer agreed with that observation.

"It's not too early to start thinking about it," Creamer said.

BASED ON CURRENT formulas, the county council would be faced with raising the $1.78 property tax rate approximately 13 cents to make up the loss of $1 million. City property owners, who currently pay a $1.50 tax rate, would see an increase of about 20 cents.

Martin also sees a Reagan proposal to curtail sewage treatment grants as something that could stall efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay.

Martin said the city is in good shape for funding to fix up its sewage treatment plant over the next several years because money has already been earmarked from past federal budgets. But future expansion and upgrading is a concern.

Martin also said future revitalization projects in downtown Salisbury could be hampered if Housing and Urban Development programs such as Urban Development Action Grants are eliminated.

"It's too early to tell on a lot of this. But there's definitely reason to be concerned," Martin said.

THE ELIMINATION OF revenue sharing funds would mean the loss of $385,000 to Somerset County's treasury.

County Commissioner Edwin McGee, who is also president of the Maryland Association of Counties, is going to Capitol Hill this week to meet with the state's congressional delegation about the implications of Reagan's proposed budget.

(See CUTS, page 2)

THE DAILY TIMES

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Grant Losses Mean Trouble

If Congress approves President Reagan's proposal to phase out federal revenue sharing after 1986, many counties and towns on the Eastern Shore will be hard pressed to continue many projects.

Revenue sharing, a program which provides grant money based on population and other factors, has been a boon in recent years to many local governments. In fact, there are towns and counties so dependent upon the federal funds they may not be able to meet expenses or debt payments if they are cut off.

Taxes will have to be raised to cover the loss of federal grants and some revitalization projects now under way will suffer if residents will not or cannot pay the difference.

The City of Salisbury, for example, receives about $500,000 a year in revenue sharing and uses the money for a variety of capital improvement projects. Wicomico County receives slightly more than $1 million a year and uses it primarily for debt retirement.

Other towns and counties on the Shore are in similar positions: federal grants have become a mainstay of their annual budgets.

County and town governments will start looking for budget areas to trim and projects will not be the only losers; jobs may go with them.

There will be fierce opposition to Reagan's proposal and Congress may not phase out revenue sharing this session. The warning is plain, however, and it is almost certain that sharp reductions in federal grants will be made within the next few years.

Municipalities should plan accordingly. The great federal grant company soon may go out of business.

Salisbury Zoo Seeking Members

Book Is Special Offer

2/6/85

By BRICE STUMP
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The Friends of the Salisbury Zoo have something to roar about thanks to Peter Crowcroft, director of the facility.

To encourage new memberships in the organization, the Friends of the Zoo and Crowcroft will give a complimentary copy of *The Zoo*, a hardback book written by the director, with each $50 or $100 membership.

The book is 11 by 8 inches, with 160 pages and illustrated with 100 photographs, many in color.

Although it is not about the Salisbury Zoo, it highlights exotic and familiar animals featured in major zoos around the world.

"The book is about what zoos are all about, and why we have them and what the world of a zoo director is about," Crowcroft said.

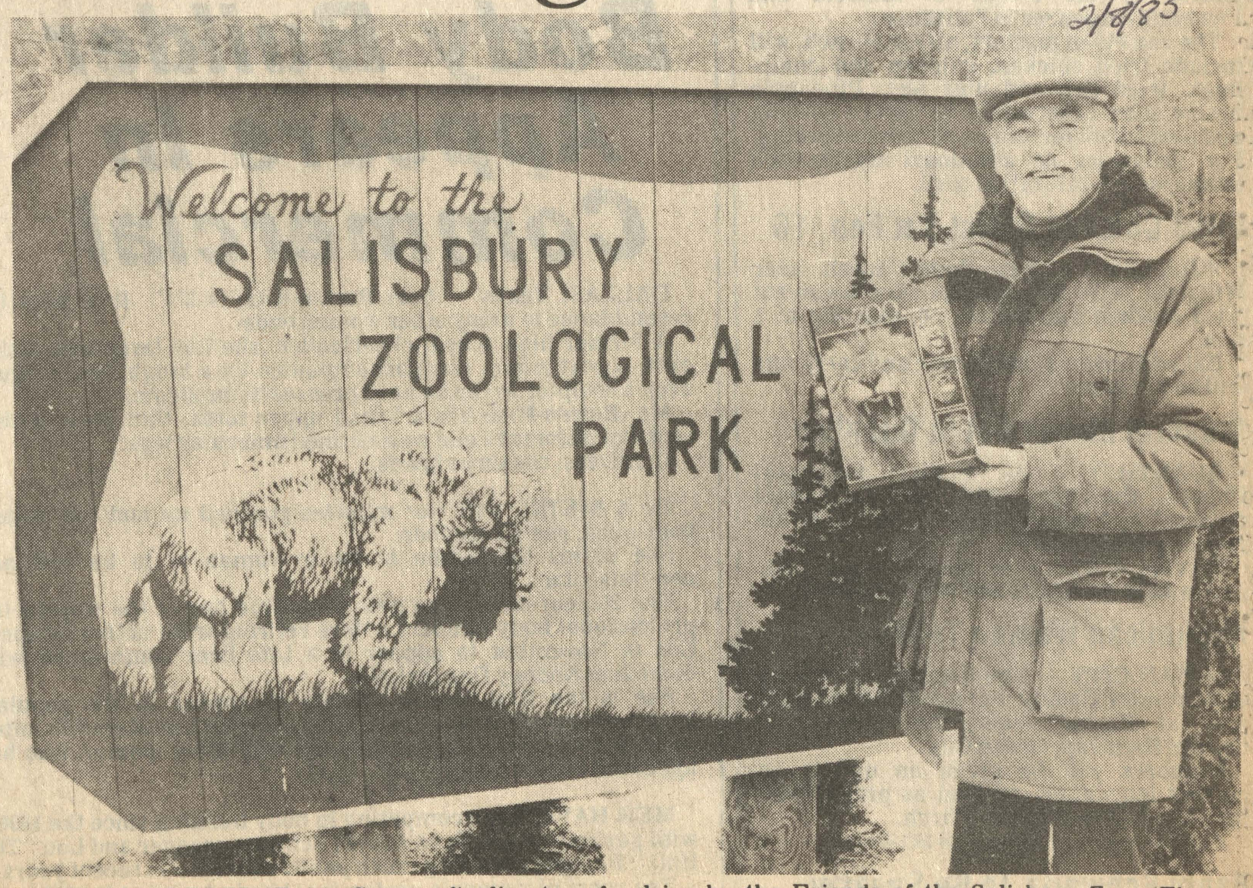
THE BOOK was written while the author was director of the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago. It was published while he was director of Sydney's Taronga Zoo in Australia. The book is offered exclusively by the zoo organization and is not available at bookstores.

Membership money is used by the group to help purchase office furniture, provide upkeep to various buildings and assist in creating educational programs for the public.

"The zoo can improve much more rapidly and serve the community better when the Friends of the Salisbury Zoo help us out," Crowcrfot said.

"The Salisbury Zoo is small as zoos go, but it is highly regarded in the zoo profession. There are no vendors here, no garbage on the grounds, no gift shop and no admission fee. It's a wonderful zoo, and one that Salisbury can be very proud to have in its community," the director said.

Membership applications are available at the zoo office. Books may be picked up at the office or mailed to new members.



A SPECIAL OFFER. Peter Crowcroft, director of the Salisbury Zoo, holds a copy of his book, which is being offered as a gift during a current membership drive by the Friends of the Salisbury Zoo. (Times Photo by Brice Stump)

Long-Delayed Sewer Line To Airport Nearing Completion

2/2/85

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The long-delayed sewer line to the Salisbury Wicomico County Airport is nearly ready for use.

William Miles, the engineer hired by the county government to supervise the $1 million project, said Friday that based on his last inspection earlier in the week, "as far I as I know, they're very close" to finishing the job.

The Wicomico County Council demanded at its Jan. 9 meeting that the installation work be completed by the end of January.

The project is expected to be the subject of a report Tuesday at the next session of the county council, which faces the task of deciding if it should impose a financial penalty against the contractor for failing to finish the job on time.

Miles said the system should be operational once Delmarva Power & Light Co. hooks up electrical service to pumping stations.

Cheryl Aydelotte, a power company spokeswoman, said Friday this month's wet weather has prevented utility workers from installing the service under safe conditions. Aydelotte said DP&L would move to complete the job as soon as weather conditions improve.

"I can't say it has more of a priority than any of our other projects," Aydelotte said.

Miles said once the sewer system has a power source, testing would be needed to assure it works properly. Then, the contractor could begin connecting buildings at the airport to the sewer line.

The county council decided more than a year ago to arrange for municipal sewer service to the airport after it was told the facility could not grow any larger if use of septic waste disposal systems was continued.

To assure that growth potential, the county struck a deal with the City of Salisbury to run a municipal sewer line from Shoppers' World to the airport.

The project started in the spring of 1984 and was supposed to be finished by the end of September.

But Tony Palladino, who owns AVP Contracting, won several contract extensions from the county council after claiming circumstances beyond his control delayed completion of the project.

Miles, however, has consistently stated poor planning and shoddy workmanship were primarily to blame for delays.

Airport Sewer Line To Be Tested

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The Wicomico County Council has finally received a favorable report on the status of the installation of the $1 million sewer system at the Salisbury Wicomico County Airport.

The council was told Tuesday the main line connecting the airport to the City of Salisbury sewer system is ready for testing, which should begin sometime next week. Sewer service to the Airport Business Center now under development has also been completed.

William B. Miles, the consultant hired by the county government to monitor installation of the system, said if no other unexpected delays crop up, the sewer should be ready to use by the end of the month. Bad weather, Miles noted, could alter the testing schedule and the connection of buildings to the sewer line in the weeks ahead.

MILES SAID recent inspections by City of Salisbury public works officials have turned up only a few minor problems which can be corrected before testing begins. Miles also said Delmarva Power & Light Co. still has several electrical service hookups to complete.

The system was originally supposed to be completed by the end of September 1984, but the president of the firm coordinating the sewer's installation won several deadline extensions after explaining delays last year were beyond his control.

The council Tuesday approved the payment of two bills submitted by the general contractor, AVP Contracting Co. The total was $15,965.

The council, however, gave no indication whether it would seek punitive damages against AVP for missing deadlines.

The county council has the option of docking the contractor $200 a day for failing to meet the agreed-upon completion date spelled out in the contract. A recent estimate by one county council member put the potential penalty figure at $18,000.

According to county figures, AVP has been paid $942,925 — or slightly more than 90 percent of the original price quoted in the contract.

Council members ordered Miles and the county staff to develop a report detailing how much the final bill for the project will be.

C. Kirk Banks, county roads division chief, said AVP will be required to repair part of Airport Road that was unexpectedly damaged during troublesome excavation work and that could inflate the cost of the project.

Airport Sewer To Be Tested

Cost Overrun Reaches $9,000 Level

2/21/85

By BILL ROBINSON
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — A key test of the new airport sewer line this week will dictate how quickly the system will be functional, the Wicomico County Council has been told.

According to consulting engineer William B. Miles, electrical service is finally hooked up and several initial tests have been successful since the last status report on the installation of the $1 million system.

Miles also estimated the cost overrun for the project has reached $9,000 and will go higher before all the work is done. Some unanticipated repaving work on Airport Road will be needed and the cost of that work is expected to cause the final bill to rise beyond Miles' preliminary estimate of additional expenses.

If final tests of the system are successful, the A.V.P. Contracting Co. will cleared to begin connecting buildings at the airport to the sewer line, which is linked to the City of Salisbury's system.

The county government arranged to serve the airport with a municipal sewer line to help it promote economic development of a new industrial park which elected officials hope will attract new business needing quick access to air travel.

The council seemed pleased with Miles' report and remarks by county government officials who are supervising the project that enough money is being held back from the contractor to help assure that the work is completed satisfactorily. The amount was estimated to be about $100,000.

Council members said they would not decide whether to impose a $200-a-day penalty against the contractor who failed to complete the installation by a Nov. 5, 1984 deadline until the system is fully operational.

Council President Henry S. Parker summarized what he heard by calling it "status quo.

"Things seem to be moving ahead. As long as they're making progress, we'll just have to wait," he said.

Marina Begun

Workmen begin construction of a wooden bulkhead at the marina project on the Wicomico River near the downtown Plaza in Salisbury. After the wall is finished, dirt will be removed to create boat slips and allow construction of individual docks to the slips. (Times Photo by Brice Stump)

3/13/85

Council To Delay Funding For Plant

2/21/85

SALISBURY — The Wicomico County Council still plans to help the City of Salisbury pay for modifications to the municipal sewage treatment plant in the months ahead, but council members said they won't release the money until they see the bills.

The council decided Tuesday it would pay the $102,720 share for engineering and design fees for the plant modifications, but only after the consultant performs the work and submits the bills.

The council indicated that it wants to retain control on the funds as long as possible so it can earn interest on revenue in its general operating budget. Altogether, the county will be contributing $170,575 to the project which will also enable the city plant to treat septic tank waste now dumped in a rural landfill.

Council Reaapoints Plaza Committee

SALISBURY — Most of the City of Salisbury's Plaza Committee has been reappointed to new terms by the city council.

All but one of the original members — whose terms had long expired — agreed to continue to serve if appointed.

Members Phil Wright, Lewis Carman and Edythe Mehlman were reappointed for three-year terms and member John Somers was reappointed for a two-year term, while member John Hess asked to be replaced.

3/31

Council Acting On Sewage Odor

3/29/85

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Many people say it smells like rotten eggs.

However it is described, the odor coming from the Salisbury Sewage Treatment Plant at the end of Marine Road here is often pungent.

Three weeks ago, the smell was reportedly even worse than usual when a digestor filled with sludge was cleaned out for the first time in five years. The odor was acrid enough to prompt citizens to call city council members with complaints.

And this week the city council started cracking down once again on the Campbell Soup Co. for its non-compliance with the city's sewage ordinance, which they say is contributing to the stench coming from the plant.

The city has sent a formal notice to Campbell's, informing them that it will take legal action if necessary.

ACCORDING TO COUNCIL president Norman H. Conway, council members met with lawyers this week to find out where they legally stood in case they decided to [illegible]h a lawsuit.

[illegible]ame time, the council is also conducting negotiations with Campbell's to try to work out a solution to the problem in hopes of avoiding a suit.

Conway said the council gave Campbell's, as well as two other companies, Perdue and Purity Bacon, until last August to comply with the city's sewage pre-treatment standards.

While the latter two are now in compliance, Campbell's is still in non-compliance, he said, and the council is concerned.

"We've said compliance is a must," Conway said. "We feel they (Campbell's) have had enough time."

Although the city is ready to file suit, he said he believes that step will not be necessary if the company continues to make sincere efforts to comply.

CONWAY SAID THE company has already purchased the necessary pre-treatment equipment, at a reported cost of $250,000 last fall, to control the amounts of chemicals causing the sludge buildup at the treatment plant, which in turn causes the buildup of grease and the odor.

Still, he said, there are discrepencies between the chemical test results Campbell's is getting and those being obtained from the city's Department of Public Works. These differences need to be corrected or else legal action will be taken, he said.

Several council members reportedly visited the plant on Tuesday to see for themselves exactly what problems Campbell's is having with compliance.

On Wednesday, officials from the city's Department of Public Works met with Campbell's representatives to compare lab test results and also to see where the problems may lie.

Kenneth Haensler, of the Public Works department, who has been meeting with Campbell's, said the situation is just a matter of his men working with the company's men to help them get into compliance. The rest, he said, is up to Campbell's.

CAMPBELL'S PLANT Manager Kenneth Maurer said the company will definitely comply with the city's ordinance. However, he said it just takes time.

"I made a personal commitment to the Mayor that we will get in compliance," Maurer said. "We're trying to make a concentrated effort to get things corrected. But it's not as simple as throwing a switch and making it all go away."

Maurer said he and the city council met and agreed on a 30-day deadline in which Campbell's will try to meet with the equipment they already have. If they cannot comply within that time, he said the company will just have to spend more money.

He added that the company does not feel threatened by a lawsuit, and has no intention of leaving the city. "We have a good relationship with the city," he said.

NOTICE
SALE OF LAND
PUBLIC HEARING
THE CITY OF
SALISBURY, MARYLAND

The Salisbury City Council offers for sale all that lot, in the City of Salisbury, located on the Southerly side of and binding upon East Church Street and on the Westerly side of and binding upon Poplar Hill Avenue, and on the Northerly side of and binding upon Old Water Street, and being bounded on the West by the land of the Old School Baptist Church, and containing 57,100, square feet of land, more or less, and being known as The City of Salisbury Parking Lot No. 8.

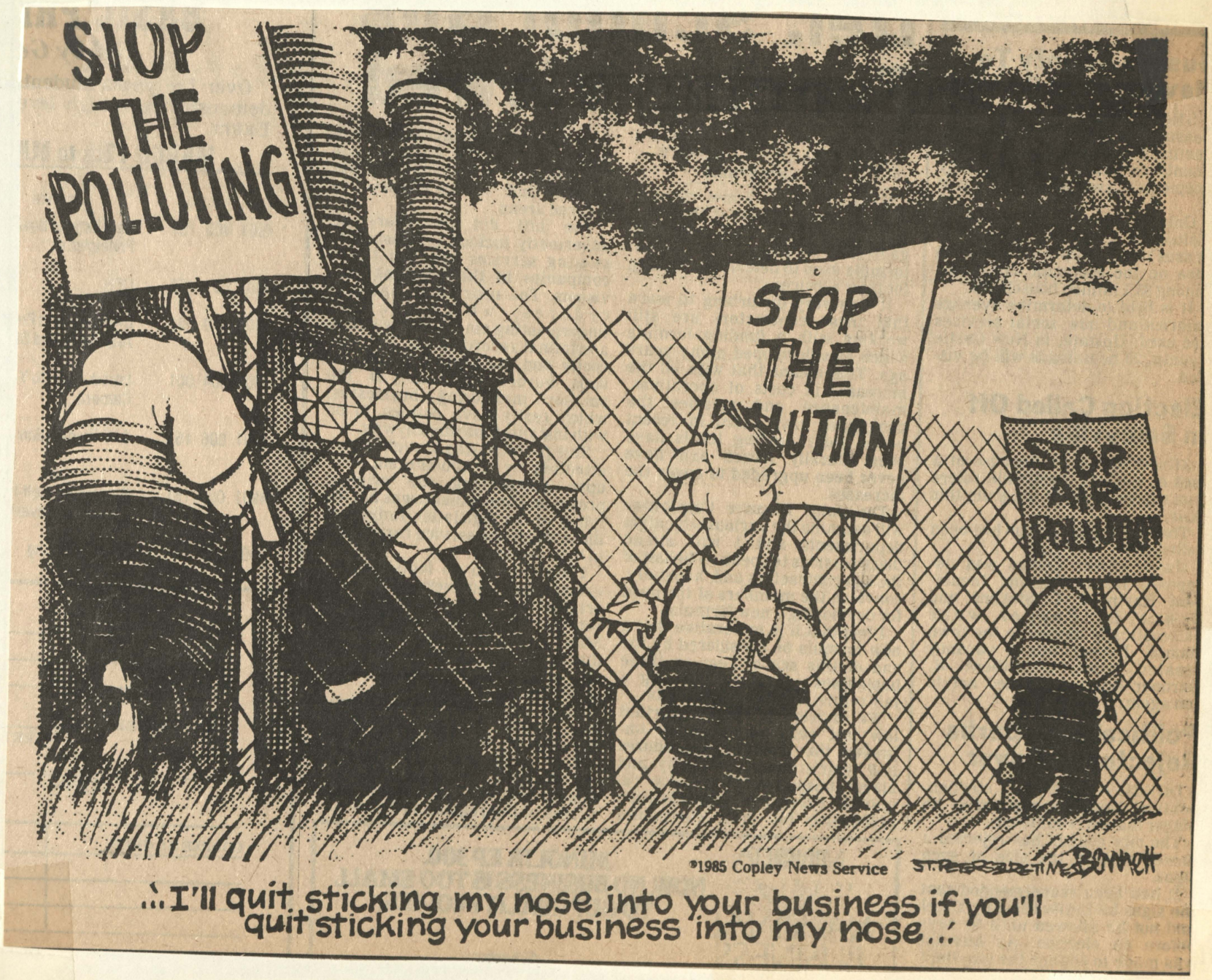
Said land has been declared surplus, by the Purchasing Agent, and is offered for sale in accordance with terms set forth in Article XVI of Salisbury's Charter. The City will enter into a contract, and execute a deed conveying said land to the person, parties, or firm submitting the highest bid and best proposal for the purchase and development of the land. Each bid must be accompanied by a certified cashier's or Treasurer's check, payable to the City of Salisbury, for $25,000.00

The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any irregularities, and to negotiate with the bidder so that the award can be made in the best interests of the City. No bid will be considered or accepted for an amount less than $550,000.00

Sealed proposals will be accepted in the Office of the City Purchasing Department until 10:00 A.M. E.S.T. on Wednesday, December 19, 1984.

The City Council will hold a public hearing in the Council Chambers of the City-County Office Building on Wednesday, December 26, 1984, at 8:05 P.M. to finally determine the disposition of said land in light of the public interest and necessity, and the needs of the Parking District, as the case may be. The current and principal proposal for disposition is to the State of Maryland for the use of the Board of Public Works for the construction of a State Office Building.

By Order of the Council
Patrick J. Fennell
Executive Secretary
12/11.18;



...I'll quit sticking my nose into your business if you'll quit sticking your business into my nose...

City Faces Building Boom

Number Of Houses To Be Built Skyrocketing

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Residential housing, which has long been a problem in Salisbury, will not be so hard to find in the near future, as officials here say the city is facing the largest building boom in its history.

In the next few months, 860 housing units, including single homes, apartments, townhouses and condominiums, are expected to undergo construction at various locations here, according to city building inspector Henry P. Wojtanowski.

That number doesn't include a 300-bed dormitory and 14 houses to be built at Salisbury State College, which will provide housing for 440 students next year.

"We're issuing more residential building permits all of a sudden than we ever have in the past," Wojtanowski said. "There must have been a scarcity to come up with all of these buildings."

COMPARED TO PAST years, the number of houses to be built in the near future here has skyrocketed. For example, according to city records, building permits were issued for 123 housing units here in fiscal 1983, most of which were apartments. Residential construction then declined, with permits for 59 housing units issued in fiscal 1984.

With the expected construction in the next several months, fiscal 1985 will see building permits issued for at least a total of 950 housing units.

Wojtanowski said he believes the sharp increase in residential construction here reflects the situation nationwide, which, he said, has probably resulted because "money has become more available."

David Rodgers, of First Shore Federal Savings and Loan here, agreed, saying the main reason behind the building boom is that interest rates for residential construction are lower now than they have been in at least the past five years.

"The primary reason why building has picked up is that people have more confidence in the economy and feel that now is the time to build," Rodgers said.

NOT ONLY WILL the building boom here mean an end to the shortage of housing, but a boost to the city's economy, according to Mayor Paul Martin.

Just in the past year, when residential construction here started to climb, the city's assessable tax base increased by $10 million, which meant about $150,000 in revenues for the city, Martin said. In turn, he said it made it possible for him to keep the property tax rate at its current of $1.50 per $100 of assessment for the fourteenth year in a row.

"It's definitely an economical advantage to Salisbury," Martin said of the building boom, pointing out that an increase in housing availability will also mean more families moving to Salisbury, and thus more money being put into the city's pockets. "I'm very proud of what we're accomplishing," he said.

Wojtanowski said the increase in residential construction in the city will also benefit Salisbury State College, (SSC) which has had a severe problem with finding housing for students in the past several years.

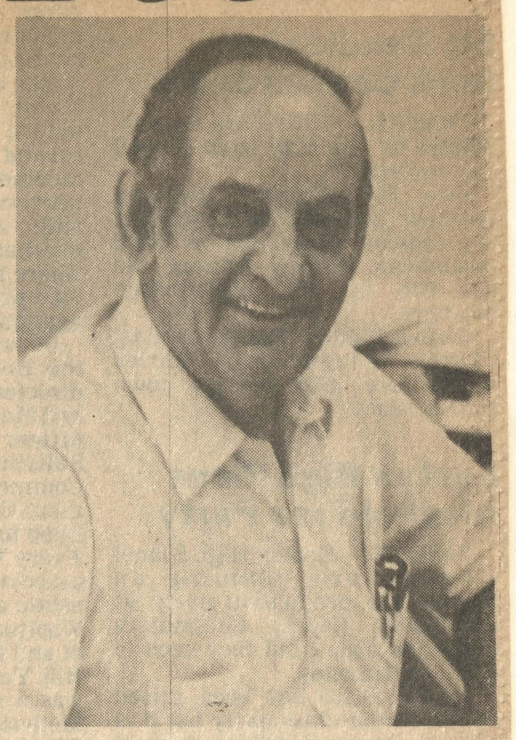
"With their enrollment growing tremendously and not enough dorms, kids have been renting housing, but I understand its hard to find," he said. "This will definitely help alleviate the housing problems students are having."

Last year, SSC had to place 500 out of about 1,200 students seeking housing on a waiting list, said the college's housing director, Robert Lovely. About 100 prospective students did not attend SSC because of the housing problem, he said.

Students have been housed anywhere from motels rooms to the Peninsula General Hospital School of Nursing, Lovely said, and those seeking housing in the city have often met with poor conditions or high rents.

"We've had a housing problem for the last 12 years," Lovely said.

With the increase in housing that will come with the new construction in the city, as well as on and around campus, Lovely said the outlook for students in the future is a lot brighter. "We should be able to house anybody that wants to be housed," he said.



Henry P. Wojtanowski 4/85

Mayor's Budget Holds Tax Rate In Salisbury

4/11/85

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Holding the line on a property tax rate that dates back some 14 years, Mayor W. Paul Martin revealed his budget proposal for fiscal 1986 today.

The rate will remain at its current $1.50 per $100 of assessment if the budget is approved by the city council, Martin said.

To keep the tax rate from increasing Martin said he is placing a limited freeze on hiring, as well as reducing spending in most of the city's departments for the next fiscal year.

Under the limited hiring freeze, no new city government positions will be created and department heads will not be able to fill vacancies without receiving Martin's authorization.

Martin has made one exception, however, in recommending the creation of a new inspector position in the Bureau of Inspections.

The city will have a total of $11.4 million to spend next year, $364,000, or 3.3 percent, more than the current budget. A public hearing is set May 13. The council has until June 15 to either change or adopt the budget or it becomes law.

MOST OF THAT INCREASE is due to new construction which the city saw this past year which raised the assessable base from $167 million to $176 million, said executive secretary Patrick Fennell.

A 5 percent increase in water and sewer rates is also recommended, which will bring in a total of about $190,000, Fennell said.

There may be a possible curve thrown into next year's budget which would mean that revisions would have to be made in the future.

Federal revenue sharing funds, which usually bring in $500,000 a year to the city, may be cut off if a program proposed by President Ronald Reagan to phase out these federal funds is passed.

Martin said he anticipates receiving the full payment of revenue sharing in fiscal 1986, however, and wrote the budget proposal with this in mind.

If the funds are terminated under Reagan's plans — which would not take effect until the federal fiscal year begins Oct. 1 — the city would still receive $260,000, which Martin has recommended be spent on street lighting.

However, the remaining $240,000 that is designated in the proposal to be spent on street and sidewalk improvements would be lost, and those projects would have to be dropped from the budget, Martin said.

"IF WE DON'T get the payments after Sept. 30, the mayor and council will have to look at the whole budget all over again," said Fennell. "But the way I see it, we should be OK for the next fiscal year.

"I thought we'd have a tax increase this year," Fennell said. "This time next year, the mayor will be looking for a tax increase."

If federal revenue sharing is cut off for next year it could mean as much as a 20-cent increase in property taxes or a reduction in city services, Martin said.

Currently, proposed spending in the general fund for fiscal 1986 is $7.3 million, more than half of which Martin is requesting for salaries.

That request includes a 5 percent cost of living increase for all city employees, plus increment raises, Martin said.

PUBLIC HEARING

A Budget Hearing will be held on 13 MAY 1985 for all interested citizens of the City of Salisbury. The following budget is proposed for fiscal year 1986.

CATEGORY	TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	REVENUE SHARING FUND
Concrete Work for New Developments	$7,338,366	$ 40,000
Concrete Work	7,338,366	80,000
Highway Lighting	7,338,366	260,000
Streets-Blacktop	7,338,366	120,000
Water & Sewer Fund	2,808,541	-0-
Parking District 1	911,571	-0-
Parking District 2	277,800	-0-
Plaza District 1	23,748	-0-
Plaza District 2	18,116	-0-

The meeting will be held at the Council Chambers, Room 301, City-County Government Building for the purpose of discussion of the proposed budget, at 8:05 P.M. The proposed budget may be examined on weekdays at Room 304 of the City-County Government Building between 9 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. All interested citizens will have the opportunity to give written and oral comment. Senior citizens are encouraged to attend and comment.

PATRICK J. FENNELL
Executive Secretary

5/2

City Water Usage Expected To Rise

4/25/85

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Water consumption here is expected to double in the next several years if a permit allowing the city to increase its use of area wells is issued by the state Department of Natural Resources.

The city has applied to DNR's water resources administration for a permit to draw an additional 3.6 million gallons of water per day to increase the community's water supply.

The water would be drawn from nine existing wells in the Salisbury metropolitan area and one new well which will be constructed in the Northwood Industrial Park.

ALTHOUGH THE city only has a permit to draw 4 million gallons of water per day from its wells, it is actually using an average of 4.3 million, and on peak days, as much as 6 million, said Thomas Plotts, deputy director of the Salisbury Department of Public Works.

Plotts said if the permit is issued, water consumption will gradually increase to the allotted average of 7.6 million gallons per day over the next 10 or so years.

In asking to double its consumption, Plotts said the city is "projecting ahead" for its needs.

"The city is growing; we're looking at industrial growth and 800 or so new houses," Plotts said. The city has an eventual limit of drawing 10 million gallons of water per day, although Plotts said water supply here is virtually unlimited.

THE PERMIT application is currently being reviewed by the water resources administration, which has already tentatively approved it.

Administration officials say increased use of area wells under the expected permit will have "minimal impact" on present water resources.

However, residents in the area of the city's wells have been notified of the permit application, and the public still has an opportunity to voice their opinion in the matter by requesting a public hearing.

Written requests from the public must be received by the administration by May 3. Anyone wishing to make a request or obtain more nformation can write to: Director, Water Resources Administration, Tawes State Office Bulding, Annapolis, Maryland, 21401.

Tree Planted

4/10/85

Salisbury Mayor W. Paul Martin, right, shovels dirt to plant a dogwood tree, donated by the Coastal Board of Realtors, in the Salisbury City Park. City forester Steve Eccleston, kneeling, holds the tree as Linda Betts, left, and Mike Weisner, president of the board, look on. Betts is co-chairwoman of the board's Make America Better Committee. The board is also sponsoring a pink dogwood tree sale to benefit the Salisbury Festival to be held May 3-5. (Times Photo by Brice Stump)

Airport sewer dispute nears settlement

4/85

The next meeting of the Wicomico County Coucil on Tuesday, May 7, promises to be a busy one.

Not only will the Council members have the information that was presented to them at their Public Hearing on the budget, but they will have met with the state of Maryland representatives on the new landfill regulations as well.

They will also be discussing once more, the amount of the penalty, if any, they will assess the AVP Construction Company which has has completed their Airport sewer project. Anthony Palladino met with the Council during the last session on April 16, and agreed that on May 7 he will return to the Council with an estimation of the number of days his people were unable to work due to weather or other justifying circumstances. He also said he hopes to have two cases with subcontractors that are currently in litigation resolved by the next meeting. The Council will not reduce the amount of money they are retaining on the contract with AVP until all the mechanics' liens and other contractual business is straightened out.

Council OKs Funds For Soil Testing

4/10/85

SALISBURY — Funds for a soil testing project to take place on property located at the corner of Parsons and Mitchell roads here were approved this week by the city council.

Executive Secretary Patrick J. Fennell said the tests will ascertain whether the ground can stand the weight of the Tabernacle of Prayer building, which is planned to be moved to that location.

Fennell said the church has already agreed to sell the property it presently occupies on Lake street to the city for its revitalization program.

The council approved $1,000 for the soil testing project, which will be started in the near future by Atec Associates Inc., Fennell said.

Traffic Signs OK'd By Salisbury Council

4/24/85

SALISBURY — Several signs will soon be posted by the city due to the future opening of a used car lot on Roland Street by Price Buick Pontiac, opposite from the dealership's main office.

The city council agreed to put up the signs after they were approached by city police chief Coulbourne Dykes, who told them the used car lot will cause traffic problems and possible accidents if proper signs are not posted.

Three signs posted at the lot's entrances will read "no parking between signs," and two "loading and unloading" signs will be installed at the curb area facing southbound traffic on Roland Street.

Fireplugs Named

DENVER (AP) — Ever wonder why fire hydrants are sometimes called "fireplugs?"

According to the American Water Works Association it came about in the days when waterlines were made of wood. Holes were dug down to the lines, then holes were drilled in the wood and fitted with a plug.

When the need arose, the plug was pulled and water filled an excavation above the pipe. Fire trucks then pumped water from that reservoir to fight a nearby fire. When the flames were put out, the wooden plug was replaced in the line.

Merchants Voice Parking Complaint

4/9/85

SALISBURY — Parking is a problem on Newton Street that needs to be cleared up, according to several merchants who complained before the city council here this week.

Several business owners complained that parking, which is allowed on both sides of the street, hampers two-way traffic.

They also argued that boats and trailers belonging to customers of M&S Marine, Inc., located at 202 Newton Street, took up much of the parking space available to customers along the street.

Chief Coulbourn M. Dykes told the council his men had studied the issue and he recommended that parking be limited to 20 minutes along one side of Newton Street. The council, however, requested that further investigation be done before they make any decisions on the matter.

Council Approves Land Annexation

SALISBURY — The City Council here voted this week to annex a parcel of land at the corner of Parsons Road and Fitzwater Drive which the 7-Up Bottling Co. is planning to purchase.

With the annexation, assessment rates will fall from nearly $60,000 to less than $30,000 and make the property more attractive to the company, the council members said.

Housing Project Selected For Grant

SALISBURY — The City Council has selected a housing project on the west side for its application for HUD block grant money.

The project involves the construction of about ten new houses on Germania Circle, which will be available to those displaced by the current revitalization of the riverfront.

Salisbury may receive a possible $800,000 in block grant money if their program is chosen by HUD.

Salisbury Set To Award Bid On Riverfront

4/26/85

SALISBURY — A construction bid for the downtown revitalization project here is expected to be awarded Monday night in a specially scheduled public hearing to be held at the city council chambers at 8 p.m.

Mayor W. Paul Martin said the city council is considering awarding the bid for Phases 1 and 2 of the waterfront project, which includes a marina and market areas, to Fox Limited Partnership, which will be represented by general partner Robert A. Fox.

The city council has been reviewing Fox's development plans over the past year, and will probably make a final decision on them at the hearing, Martin said. The mayor said Fox will propose a bid for Phases 1 and 2 at the hearing.

The entire riverfront project is expected to cost approximately $33 million, Martin said.

People And Parking Lots

The City of Salisbury plans to destroy several buildings on Germania Circle and relocate those families living there in order to build a parking lot as part of a revitalization project.

Unfortunately, the Germania Circle families were not notified of the city's plans. The City Council was told Monday night by the chairman of the project and the city executive secretary that the residents had not been notified about the project nor of the public hearing scheduled that night.

A letter was suposed to have been sent to those residents affected by the project, informing them of the meeting. It was, according to city officials, a mixup in which the officials involved thought the other had taken care of the matter.

The city plans to apply for HUD block grant money to build new homes on city-owned property in the Parsons and Mitchell roads area to house those displaced from Germania Circle. This is not satisfactory to some residents who have lived in the area for years. Nineteen families are involved, and five own their own homes.

They worked hard for their homes, they told city officials, and do not want to move. City Council President Norman Conway told Germania Circle residents the city would provide those displaced with comparable or better housing than what they now have.

This may not be possible because the city may not have enough funds to provide such housing. The deadline for applying for the HUD money is April 29 and the city plans another hearing on the issue in the near future.

Revitalization is a worthy goal for any city, but residents should not be put in a hardship situation to make it work. The city should take another look at the project and scale it down before forcing people from their homes.

Salisbury Riverfront Plan Inked

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

4/30/85

SALISBURY — With a flash of the mayor's pen, five years worth of planning, calculating and nail biting culminated Monday night with the official start of what is to become one of the most significant facelifts this city has ever seen.

The signing of a "development agreement" for the city's long-awaited riverfront revitalization officially awarded Fox Limited Partnership of Columbia, Md., a contract to construct the $36 million project, expected to be started within the next few months.

Those present for the signing by Mayor W. Paul Martin of the document, which constitutes the plans reached between the city and Fox for the project, agreed it would be a moment to go down in Salisbury's history.

"THIS IS ONE small step toward a major footprint," said city council president Norman Conway, after the council voted unanimously to accept the agreement and get the project under way.

Martin said the revitalization will mean a substantial boost to the economy here, besides capitalizing on one of the city's most important resources.

"For 20 years, we've been trying to get around the river," Martin said. "Now it's an asset; an important part of the economy that brings in whole new businesses." Martin added that, although the city will not be able to compete for tourists with Baltimore, or other large cities, because of its smaller size, it will be "as good as the rest, if not better."

Pete Cooper, director of the city's revitalization office and a chief negotiator in the planning during the past five years, said the project will also improve "what is generally a very negative area of the city.

"We're coming into a waterfront in decay, and giving it new vitality," Cooper said.

ROBERT A. FOX, owner of Fox Limited, said he hopes the project will take no more than seven years to complete.

During Monday night's public hearing on the final plans of the riverfront project, the council approved two phases of the what is to be a seven-phase construction scheme. Each phase marks an individual project, and must be approved by the council before it is begun, according to the agreement.

The two phases approved are a marina and two adjacent mall-type retail buildings, together to be built upon 80,000 square feet off of West Main Street, both of which Fox said he hopes to have completed by next spring.

One of the two buildings will be somewhat like Harborplace in Baltimore, while the other will be similar to Fanuiel Hall in Boston.

Other phases in the project will include a hotel, a warehouse, two townhouse developments and a commercial district.

Although Fox will buy the land from the city, and will own the entire project, he said the city "is in absolute complete control" of the revitalization plans, and has the authority to make changes or halt construction at any time.

Citizens Angry Over Revitalization

4/23/85

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Left in the dark about the city's plans to tear down their houses to build a parking lot, a few homeowners on Germania Circle told the city council Monday night they were angry they had not been consulted about the project, and would refuse to move out of their homes.

The plans to destroy several buildings on Germania Circle and relocate those families living in them to build a parking lot there in conjunction with the city's revitalization program were introduced two weeks ago at the council's last meeting.

At that time, the council announced it would be applying for HUD block grant money to build new homes on city-owned property in the Parsons and Mitchell roads area to house those displaced by the revitalizaton program.

HOWEVER, THOSE who would be forced from their homes were neither notified by the council nor by the committee in charge of the HUD project of the city's plans to relocate them.

Council members listened Monday night as John Somers, the chairman of the project, and executive secretary Pat Fennell stated that they had not notified anyone of the project nor of the public meeting about it scheduled for Monday night.

According to both, a letter was supposed to have been sent to those residents who would be affected, explaining the project and informing them of the meeting.

After several Germania Circle residents, who happened to attend the meeting, said they did not receive any notification, Fennell said he thought Somers had sent them a letter, while Somers said he thought Fennell had handled the situation.

Virginia Gaines, who has lived in her home on Germania Circle for 27 years, said she was advised by some church friends, Billy Gene Jackson and Eugenie Green, of Salisbury, of the city's plans and that she should attend the meeting.

"I'VE LIVED HERE a number of years, and it would be an awful setback to what I've worked for when I retire," Gaines said of her possible relocation. "I'm not willing to give it all up just like that."

"I've lived here 21 years, and I also worked hard for my home," said Viola Martin, a neighbor of Gaines who was also advised to attend the meeting. "I don't want to move. I can't even build a house now for what I built it for then. And I don't think the city should just come in and do what they want to do."

Council president Norman Conway assured those attending the meeting that the city would provide those displaced with comparable or better housing than what they have presently.

However Fennell said he thought the city may not have enough funds to provide such housing. "I don't want to see the council make promises it can't deliver within the (HUD) application," he said. "We want to upgrade the city as a whole, but we may have to scale this down. We don't want to put people in a hardship situation."

The council decided to hold a public hearing on the issue in the near future, as the deadline for applying for the HUD grant money is April 29.

Farmers' Market Is Coming To Salisbury

4/25/85

Is Part Of City's Revitalization Efforts

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — What is now concrete will come alive with fresh vegetables, fruit and fish with the opening of a new farmers' market coming next month to downtown Salisbury.

Part of the city's downtown revitalization project, the market will be constructed on a virtually unused parking lot on the riverfront of West Market Street, and is expected to open by May 30, with hours Thursday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The market, planned and funded by the revitalization office, has the blessings of Mayor W. Paul Martin. It will include eight stalls to house produce and seafood vendors, as well as places where vehicles can set up to sell their goods.

Only food items, such as fruits, vegetables, eggs, cheese, cider, baked goods and seafood will be allowed to be sold. Merchants will be allowed to set their own prices, and to cover operating expenses, a weekly fee of $10 will be charged to those vendors in the market.

Pete Cooper, director of the downtown revitalization office, said the location of the farmers market will be temporary, since that land is expected to be later used for other commercial plans under the revitalization project.

Meanwhile, Cooper said if the farmers' market is a success, it may be moved into a larger "Lexington Market-type market" which is part of the future master revitalization plan.

Cooper said the purpose of bringing a farmers' market downtown fits into the overall downtown revitalization scheme.

"We believe it has a place here," Cooper said of the market. "There is no place available in downtown Salisbury to get fresh produce and seafood.

"We want downtown to be a more exciting place for people to be," he added. "This will help bring more people in so they will go to the other businesses already here."

Applications for merchants who are interested in becoming part of the farmers' market are available at the downtown revitalization office. Cooper said there will be space for about 10 businesses. Interested vendors can contact Cooper at 749-1905 or Wicomico County Extension Agent Wayne Shaff at 749-6141.

Salisbury 'Jobs For Kids' Program Enters 3rd Year

4/24

By M..CHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Getting its best initial response ever, the Mayor's Regional Summer Youth Jobs Program, called "Jobs for Kids," solicited 93 summer job slots for area youths at its third annual kickoff breakfast Tuesday.

At the meeting, 14 businesses in Wicomico County offered to supply various jobs, while another three committed themselves to donations totaling $7,000.

The speaker at the affair, Dr. Brent M. Johnson, secretary of the Maryland department of employment and training, challenged the Jobs for Kids committee to supply a total of 150 summer jobs this year, adding that his department would supply five of those positions.

Johnson also presented Mayor W. Paul Martin with a "start up" fund of $15,000 for the program.

Besides jobs and donations committed by local companies, the mayor said the city would supply 10 jobs for youths, plus allot the program $10,000 in its budget. Martin said the program has been "very successful".

The goal of "Jobs for Kids," a non-profit organization set up three years ago on a suggestion from the mayor, is to place youths wanting summer jobs into various businesses which have agreed to supply positions.

If businesses cannot provide employment, they can make a donation, which is then transferred by the program's steering oommittee into jobs with the local public works department, according to Jill E. Barbon, Jobs for Kids program director. For each $1,000, a job can be created, she said.

Companies wishing to hire economically disadvantaged youths can also receive a tax deduction, although the program is open to any young person between the ages of 16 and 21, Barbon noted.

Brenda Phillips, personnel director of Peninsula Press, one of last year's employers which participated, said Jobs for Kids has been "a big help" to her as an employer, both by saving her time in screening applicants, as well as taking care of any problems which develop with those employed — both of which are functions of the program.

Besides Baltimore, Salisbury is the only city in Maryland that has such a jobs program, said William B. Rictor, chairman of the Jobs for Kids steering committee, and the emcee at the breakfast.

Dumping Restrictions Sought

4/23/85

Sewer Rule Would Give City More Leverage

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The city will have more leverage in the future against Campbell Soup Co. and any other industries which do not meet sewage dumping limitations if it decides to adopt a new sewer use ordinance under orders by the state health department.

City council members tentatively approved the ordinance during their meeting Monday night, but must now hold a public hearing and pass it a second time before it becomes law.

Based on the Federal Environmental Protection Agency model, the most significant change the new ordinance would bring is that the city would be required to issue a permit to major industrial users allowing them to discharge wastes — a permit that could later be withdrawn if those industries did not comply with the dumping regulations.

Although the state health department's order to the city to adopt the new ordinance was not brought about as a result of the recent Campbell Soup noncompliance situation, deputy director of public works Thomas D. Plotts said it will have an effect on it.

After fighting with them for two years in an attempt to bring them into compliance with its sewage regulations, the city council recently threatened to sue Campbell Soup unless the company can meet the city's standards in the near future.

Campbell Soup is the only one of three major industries here ordered several years ago to come into compliance that has not been able to do so.

Under the new ordinance, Plotts said the city will be able to better enforce its regulations, because compliance deadlines, formerly flexible and never met by Campbell Soup, will be rigidly set.

If those deadlines are not met, the city can then withdraw the company's permit to dump wastes, which will then make it illegal for them to do so. This would give the city a better standing in court, Plotts said.

Also with the new ordinance, the city will be able to place surcharges against those industries in violation of local standards.

Under the last deadline agreed upon between the company and the city council, Campbell Soup vowed to try to come into compliance within 30 days. That deadline expires at the end of this week.

Although Campbell Soup has made sincere efforts, Plotts said it is "doubtful" they will be able to comply in that amount of time.

The deadline for the city's adoption of the ordinance has been set by the health department for May 30. A public hearing has been tentatively scheduled for May 20.

Rowing A Shell

Maureen McNeill, bottom, and Martha Graham, a member of the Salisbury City Council, practice rowing a shell on the Wicomico River in Salisbury in preperation for team competition during the Salisbury Festival in May. (Times Photo by Brice Stump)

4/11/85

Salisbury Water Ban Remains In Effect

5/6/86

SALISBURY — The city's ban on the use of outdoor water is still in effect, according to public works department director Kenneth M. Haensler.

Haensler said today that the rain which fell on the city Thursday night only averaged about .36 inches, which he said, was not enough to help solve the city's water distribution shortage.

The ban was placed on outside water usage May 1, in the wake of April's dry spell, to maintain a reserve supply of water for the city's fire departments.

Until further notice, citizens here are asked not to use water for outside uses, such as irrigation, car washing or lawn sprinking between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

City Announces Plans To Fight Mosquitoes

6/6

SALISBURY — The city public works department is asking residents here to help prevent mosquito infestation by eliminating the insects' breeding habitat — standing water and high grasses.

Citizens are asked to get rid of standing water on their properties, such as that in rain gutters, flower pots, garbage can lids and wheelbarrows, and keep grass and weeds cut down.

The city, with funds from the state department of agriculture, will soon be spraying parts of the city in which heavy infestations of mosquitoes are reported.

Since the chemical used in the spraying is somewhat toxic to fish in outdoor ponds, the public works department asks that property owners with active fish ponds notify them as soon as possible at 331-3177 to avoid spraying in those areas.

Residents Told Of Relocation

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

5/10

SALISBURY — In the wake of a public uproar, letters are being hand-delivered this week by representatives of the city's downtown revitalization program to residents of Germania Circle who may be relocated when the city builds a parking lot where their houses now stand.

The letters and personal visits are designed to inform the residents of the city's plans to tear down their houses to build the parking lot, which will serve commercial businesses to come with the revitalization project, and to offer them new housing at no cost.

But a few of these residents have already refused to move from their houses.

Many expressed anger upon learning of the city's intentions to destroy their homes, which was announced about two weeks ago at the last city council meeting, because they were never notified by city officials of the plans.

At the April 22 meeting, city officials and architect John Somers, the westside committee chairman of the revitalization program in charge of the project, admitted that the letters that were supposed to have been mailed to these residents were, by mistake, never sent.

THE CITY COUNCIL went ahead with its approval of the plans at the meeting to meet an April 29 deadline in order to receive about $800,000 in HUD grant money to help fund their plans.

Somers said the council had planned a long time ago to build the parking lot at some time in the future, but after finding out about a month ago that it could receive funding from HUD, decided to move the plans through quickly.

In their haste to meet the deadline, Somers said, there was not enough time to properly notify the Germania Circle residents.

"We figured we would file the application and that we could always hold a public hearing later," Somers said. "I think the people panicked, as anybody might when they hear big brother is looking at taking their homes. If we had had enough time to get out and talk to them in advance, we wouldn't have had this problem."

"We just didn't want to miss the opportunity to make a major improvement to that area," said Pete Cooper, director of the revitalization office.

"I believe if people understand, they will find it will be to their advantage to move out of the area. It's nothing for them to get excited about. We just don't want to lose the project before it gets started."

A public hearing on the plans has been scheduled for May 13.

SOMERS SAID THAT although the HUD application has already been sent, the council still has the option of turning down the plans.

However, he said the city does have the power to relocate the residents against their will.

"If they are stubborn and refuse to move, the city has the power to condemn their properties, if it comes down to it," he said.

"The whole program is very good for the people there," Somers said. "They will be getting better homes than they live in now, in a better location, with no extra cost. There is nothing for them to lose."

Mayor W. Paul Martin and city council president Norman Conway have given assurances that they will see to it those residents displaced by the project receive equal or better housing without having to pay anything.

Somers said the residents would not have to move far, because the new housing to be built with the HUD funding would be located only a few blocks away on Cody Cox Lake.

Houses that could be saved would be renovated and moved from Germania Circle to the new location, while those residents whose houses would be torn down would be offered new houses at no cost.

According to Somers, a total of about 20 residents, five of whom are homeowners and the rest tenants, will have to be relocated.

Cancelled
5/13

ter distribution system can be effectively cleared of most of the corrosion sediment which would otherwise find its way into the consumer's plumbing fixtures.

To minimize inconvenience, we will flush our system at night - ordinarily between 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. There will be no interruption of service while this is in progress, however some discoloration of the water supply may be expected. If discoloration occurs, it should clear up quickly and clearing can be facilitated by letting a faucet run for a short while. If discoloration persists, call the City Service Center at 548-3177.

FLUSHING WILL BEGIN MONDAY, MAY 19. 1986

Revitalization

5/19/85

Salisbury Council OKs Germania Circle Relocation

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The city council decided at a public hearing Monday night to move ahead with its plans to relocate residents of Germania Circle and parts of the west side of the city in order to build a parking lot for its revitalization project.

Although many of the 75-plus citizens who attended the hearing spoke out against the city's plans, the council eventually managed to reach an accord after about two hours of heated debate.

Homeowners, tenants, landlords and public representatives turned out in full force to protest the council's plans, which originated about three weeks ago, to apply for HUD block grant money to help with the relocation of residents.

BUT AFTER ALL was said and done, the citizens ended up agreeing they were most opposed to the city's public relations, or lack thereof, in dealing with those residents who would be affected by the plans.

The application for HUD money to support the city's plans was introduced at an April 22 council meeting, at which Germania Circle residents were supposed to have been invited, but by a mix-up, were never sent a letter informing them of the meeting.

Although only two homeowners, informed by friends aware of the situation, attended that meeting, the council still approved the application because it was due at HUD by April 29.

Therefore, the residents involved were informed of the city's plans to tear down their homes after the application was sent, and the project approved. Committee members of the downtown revitalization office finally visited most of the residents this past week to discuss the project and tell them of Monday night's public hearing.

"SOMEBODY MADE the terrible mistake of doing things a little bit left-handed," said one resident of the west side attending the hearing. "There's no excuse that they couldn't notify people."

> "The program was put together in a hasty manner," conceded Mayor W. Paul Martin. "Assumptions were made, and it was not taken care of in the right way. "But I firmly believe we do need to upgrade the housing on the west side," he said. In the last meeting on the project, Martin and the council had promised those residents who would be forced to move that they would receive equal or better housing at no extra cost.

"The program was put together in a hasty manner," conceded Mayor W. Paul Martin. "Assumptions were made, and it was not taken care of in the right way.

"But I firmly believe we do need to upgrade the housing on the west side," he said. In the last meeting on the project, Martin and the council had promised those residents who would be forced to move that they would receive equal or better housing at no extra cost.

"I still believe we have a good, sound project that can help everybody," he said.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT Norman Conway agreed with the mayor, concluding at the end of the meeting that the project should continue, but that more input must be received from the public.

He ordered that names and addresses of those attending the hearing be taken so that some type of "neighborhood association" could be set up, and told the crowd that meetings between residents and city officials would be scheduled.

Conway also said he would make personal visits to the homes of Germania Circle residents.

"I think we ought to drop the whole thing," said council member Sam Seidel. "I just don't like seeing the community this upset. We've worked too hard to build a good relationship in this community. From what I've heard tonight, we could be undoing some of that."

Seidel said it was "obvious" that the council did not get the "input of the black community," which makes up the majority of Germania Circle residents.

"I don't know why we're going through all this hassle anyway when the odds are no better than 50-50 of getting the HUD money," he added.

Whether or not the council receives approval of its application for the grant will not be known until July, according to executive secretary Patrick Fennell.

If the application is not accepted by HUD, Conway said other alternatives will be discussed. Until then, it appears the city will be working with the residents to get their approval of the existing plans.

Flushing Salisbury

5/14/86

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eared.
f there are problems, residents
y call the City Service Center at
-3177.

Residential Permit Parking Approved

SALISBURY — The city council voted to stem parking which overflows from Salisbury State College onto North Clairmont Drive by posting the street for residential permit parking only.

The council acted on a proposal made by Chief Colbourn Dykes, who received complaints from residents in the area who said they are not able to park because students' vehicles are left on the street all day.

Salisbury To Get Farmer's Market

SALISBURY — Plans for a farmer's market to be located on a parking lot on West Market Street between the Market Street Inn and the Somers-Bailey property facing the Wicomico River have been passed by the city council.

The market, which will consist of ten stalls for vendors selling food items varying from fresh produce to seafood, will be run by the city's downtown revitalization office RAG (Rudat Action Group) committee.

RAG officials have said if the farmers' market is a success, it will be moved to the larger market planned as part of the future downtown revitalization project, which will be patterned after Lexington Market in Baltimore.

5/9/85

City, Company Reach Agreement

SALISBURY — Fox Limited Partnership, the construction company which has received a contract from the city to be the sole builder on the $30 million downtown revitalization project, entered into an 'assignment agreement' with the city.

According to the agreement, Fox will be allowed to bring in another company to share financially in the project, said city executive secretary Patrick J. Fennell. Fennell said it is not known at this time which business will become partners with Fox.

Council Approves Parking Proposal

SALISBURY — Parking problems on a section of Newton Street between Route 13 and Center Street were finally cleared up as the city council approved a proposal made by the Department of Public Works which prohibits parking on the north side of the street and limits parking on the south side to one hour.

The problem was introduced to the council in April, when representatives from two firms, Salisbury Office Supply and M&S Marine, Inc., complained that the situation was hurting their businesses.

City Council OKs Four POS Funding Requests

5/31/85

SALISBURY — Four proposals have been approved by the city council here for recommendation for state funding by Project Open Space (POS) grants which are awarded by the Wicomico County Recreation Commission.

The requests include $60,000 for construction of a plaza garden to be located on a lot adjacent to the City Center and used for downtown promotional events; $8,000 in funds for a Newton-Camden playground to be located on property already owned by the city; $35,000 to build a Camden Street pedestrian bridge over the east prong of the Wicomico River, where the former Camden Street bridge was removed, to tie in to the downtown revitalization plan; $10,000 for the development of a festival site, to be located just east of the Main Street bridge, which would attract potential clients to the adjacent future city marina.

City executive secretary Patrick J. Fennell said a decision on the funding requests is expected to be reached by the commission sometime in August.

New Signals Slated For Salisbury Area

5/23/8

Hope Is To Solve Traffic Problems

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — No more "catching" every red light along Route 13 or getting stuck in long lines of cars in this traffic-plagued city.

The Maryland Department of Transportation has already begun work on a $1 million project to replace traffic lights at 25 intersections along Routes 13 and 50 which will synchronize the flow of traffic and reduce congestion.

Signals along those roads now are "sluggish, inadequate, and outdated" and have not been changed for about the past 20 years, making traffic a problem here, according to Alfred D. Budnichuk, assistant district engineer of traffic for the State Highway Administration.

The new signals will be systemized or coordinated by computer so that traffic will flow much better.

Budnichuk said the old lights work independently at each intersection, so that motorists may end up stalled at several successive red lights on major roadways unnecessarily.

The signals to come will also have a new look. Instead of hanging from wires, the new lights will be attached to "mast arms," or slim metal poles extending horizontally across the intersection, so that all wiring will be hidden underground. One exception will be the intersection at Route 50 and Main Street, which is too wide to implement mast arms, Budnichuk said.

Besides being aesthetically more pleasing, Budnichuk said the new signals will also be safer to motorists. The possibility of dangling wires electrocuting people or starting fires will be gone, and the lights will not sway in high winds and therefore, will be easier to see, Budnichuk said.

The project is broken down into two phases: the Route 13 system, which will cost $440,000 and extend from Pine Bluff Road to Zion Road, and the Route 50 system, which will cost $674,000 and see new traffic lights between Quantico Road and Civic Avenue.

Work on the former system started about two weeks ago, while the construction on the latter is expected to start sometime within the next two weeks and be completed by winter.

The systems will be similar to 75 others installed throughout the state by the SHA.

Budnichuk said when he started with the state transportation department here in 1979, he recognized a serious need for updating the traffic signals, and his department began working on various intersections on a piecemeal basis.

With the appropriation of $1 million, the state approached city government officials here, who gave them the nod to proceed with the project. Budnichuk said the city could not handle the complex project, so the state took over with its much larger maintenance crew.

The construction firm contracted to do the job is Buck Line Corp. of Pennsylvania.

Good News For Motorists

Growth in and around Salisbury has been rapid in recent years. While this expansion pleases community boosters, motorists — local and out-of-region — are less than enchanted with traffic problems on Routes 15 and 50.

It may be possible to drive through Salisbury on either main highway without catching a red light, but the odds are gainst you. In fact, the odds favor catching every red light. The main problem is that intersections — or blocks — are uneven in length, making it almost impossible to synchronize signal lights for a more even flow of traffic.

Another problem — perhaps the biggest — has been a lack of funds for a computerized system.

Good News!

The Maryland Department of Transportation is at work on a $1 million project to replace traffic lights at 25 intersections along Routes 13 and 50 which will use a computer to coordinate traffic flow. The new traffic lights will have a new look. Instead of hanging from wires, they will be attached to slim metal poles extending across an intersection and all wiring will be underground.

The Route 50 and Main Street intersection will be the exception because of the width of the road.

There are two phases to the project: the Route 13 system, which will cost $440,000 and extend from Pine Bluff Road to Zion Road, and the Route 50 portion, which will cost $674,000 and have traffic lights between Quantico Road and Civic Avenue.

The systems are similar to 75 others installed by the State Highway Administration throughout Maryland.

Motorists driving though this area in peak vacation months will appreciate the new computerized traffic lights.

Salisbury Attracts Bottling Company

6/13/85

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — A major distribution center for the Seven-Up Bottling Co. will soon be moving from Denton back to Salisbury, where it was located about 15 years ago, according to Edward G. Banks Jr., Seven-Up's local attorney.

The company will soon be constructing a 15,000-square-foot building on a vacant lot at the corner of Fitzwater Street and Marine Road.

Completion of the building is expected sometime in October, and approximately 30 jobs will be provided for area residents, said James Parsons, general sales manager of the company.

According to Banks, the move was contingent upon the annexation of the land owned by Seven-Up to the city.

FOLLOWING SEVERAL weeks of negotiations with the company, Director of Public Works Kenneth Haensler confirmed Wednesday that annexation had been verbally agreed upon between the city and Seven-Up.

Banks explained that Seven-Up was hesitant about moving back to Salisbury because of the stiff rates for city water and sewer hook-ups which would be charged due the location of the land in question, which is just outside city limits.

State health department regulations require that if city water and sewer lines are available to a company, even though it is located outside of the city, that company must connect to those lines. The cost of that hook-up is double that which a company would pay if located inside the city limits, Haensler said.

SEVEN-UP OFFICIALS had a choice between paying the high water/sewer fees, which in their case would have cost $60,000 based on front-foot assessment, according to Banks, or annexation to the city, in which case they must pay both city and county taxes.

Parsons said the company wishes to move to Salisbury because it offers a better market and because it is "closer to the center of Delmarva."

Outdoor Watering Ban Is Lifted In Salisbury

SALISBURY — The ban on outdoor water use, placed on the city earlier this month as a result of drought conditions, was lifted Friday by the department of public works.

Officials said the ban would be lifted on a "trial basis" and will be reimposed if necessary.

City residents are still asked to cooperate by limiting outdoor water use, such as irrigation, car washing, etc., during daytime hours.

6/1/85

Seven-Up Property Annexation Is OK'd

SALISBURY — Land to be used for the construction of a Seven-Up Bottling Co. distribution center was officially annexed to the city limits following a unanimous vote by the city council at its meeting Monday.

The 15,000-square-foot building will be located at the intersection of Parsons and Marine Roads.

With the annexation, Seven-Up will pay only about half of the fee for water and sewer hookups that it would have paid if the property was not located within the city limits, according to the city council.

Officials of the company said the new plant will provide about 20 to 30 jobs for the area here.

6/25/85

Water, Sewer Bills To Increase

6/11

Salisbury Tax Rate Stays Same

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The city council has passed an $11.9 budget for fiscal year 1986 that retains the present $1.50 per $100 of assessment property tax rate.

However, there will be a 5 percent increase in water and sewer rates, which will generate about $190,000 in revenue and keep the system self-sufficient, the council said.

The new budget is $860,000 more than the present one but retains the $1.50 rate which has been in effect for 14 years.

Council President Norman Conway attributed this to an increase of about $10 million in the assessable tax base over the past year due and the $23 million spend on new construction in the city. He said the city's growth is what has enabled the council to hold the line on taxes.

"I feel it represents responsible spending, with a look ahead as far as progress goes," he said.

THE BUDGET ALSO calls for a limited freeze on hiring, as well as reduced spending in most of the city's departments for the next fiscal year to help keep taxes down.

More than half of the total budget, about $7.4 million, is designated for the general fund, most of which goes for salaries. City employees will get a 5 percent cost of living increase, plus increment raises.

The council also made some changes in Mayor W. Paul Martin's original budget proposal, submitted two months ago. The most significant is the addition of a separate $384,130 city marina budget.

Other changes are a $33,000 increase in the contingency fund, spending $20,000 for repairs to the city's fire boat, the addition of a police radio repeater system at a cost of $19,000, the purchase of topsoil for the Newton/Camden playground for $5,000 and spending $40,000 for garage repairs on one of the city's municipal parking lots,

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Patrick J. Fennell said these changes, except for the new marina budget, came about because the treasurer discovered an additional $62,000 in revenue after the mayor drew up his original proposal.

The sum earmarked for the marina comes from the selling of city bonds and matching state grants as well as anticipated income from the sale of gas and oil, slip rentals and other proceeds which will be generated once the marina opens.

"We felt we should start with a budget for the marina this year because we'll have to have one in the future," Fennell said. "I recommended it be a separate budget so we can keep an eye on it to see what it's costing us and see if it's paying for itself."

The marina, now under construction, is part of the city's downtown revitalizaton project. Fennell said the marina should be completed by next spring.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE closely monitoring the federal revenue sharing situation and hoping the city does not lose the $500,000 expected for fiscal '86, as proposed by President Reagan.

Fennell said the city should receive the funds for fiscal 1986, but if they are terminated in the future, it could mean a sizable increase in property taxes or a reducation in city services.

Back to the drawing board

7/3/85

By MAUREEN McNEILL
Editor

HUD grant denied; was to fund Germania Circle relocation

One of the most controversial stages of Salisbury's riverfront redevelopment plan took a step backward last week. City Executive Secretary Pat Fennell reports that Salisbury's application for a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) block grant to redevelop Germania Circle was not approved.

Germania Circle, two blocks west of the Plaza downtown and one block north of Fitzwater Street, had been considered as a possible location for a parking lot to support the new marina under construction, as well as the Perdue processing plant. A history of flooding problems was one factor in the City's choice of that site.

Residents of Germania Circle, however, who were not well informed by the City of the plans for their neighborhood, opposed the redevelopment and strongly requested a voice in the Westside plans.

Mayor W. Paul Martin, Jr., says that although the City would have liked to have had the HUD funds to support the project, this news will not impede the work being done on the Westside. Martin stated that the Germania Circle stage of the redevelopment is important, but not his first priority.

He and the City Council still plan to meet with the home owners in the Germania Circle neighborhood to come up with a plan for redevelopment. It is a meeting, says Martin, that would have been held regardless of the results of the grant application.

"We would like to have had the funds to be able to relocate the people on Germania Circle," said Martin, "but the important thing is to get the home-owners together with the Council to come up with a solution."

The application, which was submitted in April, was in competition with several Community Development Block Grant applications from across the State. In an April meeting, Fennell reported to the Council that he thought the odds were 50 - 50 that it would be approved.

City To Close Parts Of 2 Streets

1/24/85

SALISBURY — The city council here has passed an ordinance which closes portions of Eden Street and East London Avenue located southeast of North Salisbury Boulevard.

City Engineer Kenneth Haensler, who drew up the ordinance, said those roadways needed to be closed because they blocked the right-of-way of North Salisbury Boulevard, and that they have never been or used or recognized as public streets.

Haensler also said the areas around those roadways are already adequately served by other public streets, including North Salisbury Boulevard.

Haensler Retiring

8/28/85

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Salisbury Public Works Director Kenneth M. Haensler has decided to retire next January at age 55, ending 19 years of service to the city.

Haensler is being replaced by Thomas D. Plotts, 36, who has served with the public works department since 1981, and has been deputy director there since 1983.

WITH 35 YEARS in civil engineering and management in both the private and public sectors, Haensler has served for the past seven years as public works director, and prior to that, spent 12 years as the city's sanitary engineer.

Before joining the city, Haensler served with the Baltimore County Bureau of Engineering.

Haensler said he is retiring "to catch up on many neglected personal pursuits," such as projects around the house, his love of reading history books, trips to operas and symphonies, and visits with family.

He also said he plans to seek some type of part-time employment which will involve working with people, perhaps in the media or education fields.

Kenneth Haensler

"I've derived the greatest pleasure in this job working with people," Haensler said. "The thing that makes my day is when my phone rings or I open my morning mail and somebody says something complimentary about the department."

Haensler, who supervises 100 employees, said the job as public works director has been challenging.

Larry Alpaugh photo

Lanelle Bembenek, 17, (left) and Lori Hayman, 16, work on bulkheading along the Wicomico River.

Summer job is lesson in conservation for corps

7/24/85

By KATHY WIELAND

The City of Salisbury is participating in the governor's Chesapeake Bay Initiative by providing a project for eleven area teenagers who are spending their summer as members of the Maryland Conservation Corps.

The boys and girls can be seen in their bright yellow t-shirts and hard hats on the banks of the Wicomico River along Carroll Street where they are fighting the battle against shore erosion with shovels, axes, wheel-barrows and lots of muscle. For the past month, they have been preparing the riverbank for the placement of gabions which resemble huge wire crab pots filled with rocks. The gabions act as a filter, trapping soil and allowing plants to anchor on the shoreline.

With less than a month left in the program, ther is a tremendous amount of dirt and rock yet to be moved, but crew chief Linda Hautzenroder, a former schoolteacher from St. Mary's County, is impressed by the perseverence and hard work shown by the youngsters. "Considering the heat, they are doing a great job," she said.

The Conservation Corps program, coordinated under the auspices of the Tidewater Administration of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, has three components: it provides paying jobs for teens; offers weekly job training sessions where, for example, the teens learn how to apply for jobs; and provides conservation education through weekly discussions with a naturalist.

According to Jonathan Underwood, Conservation Corps director, 800 teens are working in the Corps at 80 sites in every county in the state. Six crews are working on various projects on the Lower Shore, he said. A crew cleaning out the Pocomoke River at Revels Point works in waist-deep water all day while another crew is clearing wooded areas for additional campsites on Janes Island campground near Crisfield. Before the program ends, all the crew members will be treated to a charter boat excursion on the Chesapeake Bay.

The objective of the Conservation Corps program is to "implant a seed of appreciation and love of the Bay because it is our greatest natural resource," said Underwood.

"The kids are working on something that for years to come they will see and know that they accomplished," Hautzenroder added.

One man's battle for clean water, wildlife

By MAUREEN McNEILL
Editor

In the Spring, you notice a pale green coating on the top of the water. What you don't see, is a thick, black layer covering the earth below. The combination can be deadly for the wildlife in between.

Peter Freeman blames this "blanket" of plankton and algae, a natural occurance that has become increasingly dangerous due to nutrient runoff into ponds, rivers and the Bay, for the drop in the oyster population and the other symptoms of the Bay's ill health. And he thinks he has found a solution.

Where the Critical Areas Act and other pieces of legislation attempt to halt the flow of harmful elements into the Bay, Freeman, and others like him, attempt to address the problems that have already arisen. Like the lack of dissolved oxygen in the water.

Freeman has developed two types of aerators, he calls the HEWAC and the WEWAC, for Hydraulic and Wind Energy Water Aeration and Circulation, to circulate dissolved oxygen in bodies of water. Basically, the WEWAC is cylinder split and slid open, so that both curved sides catch the wind. The wind machine is floated above the surface of the water and drives a propeller below. The propeller sends surface water down to the bottom. The HEWAC is driven by water pumped through a hose and shot at a waterwheel. The waterwheel, then, drives the propeller.

Plankton, which has become more plentiful as more nitrogen and phosphorus make their way from health lawns into bodies of water, strains the oxygen out of the water. Normally, sunshine will warm the water and bottom water will move up to the top, where it receives oxygen. A blanket of plankton on the surface will prevent this from happening.

Because the bottom water isn't aerated, a layer of black, anoxic sludge builds on the bottom. Ultimately, an unpleasant odor, from the hydrogen sulfide that results, is emitted.

When he moved to Ocean Pines, Freeman found a foot of this sludge at the bottom of the canal outside his home. As ecology chairman for the community, where the same problem was reported in most of the canals, he developed the HEWAC and put it to work by his own home in 1976. Today, he reports 1 1/2 to 2 inches of sludge.

In the meantime, news of Freeman's aerators has spread. A group of students in St. Michaels that made saving the Bay their topic for the school year has put 4 aerators in the St. Michaels harbor. The students and their teacher, Mary Anne Trucillo, continue to conduct tests of the water and report an increase in the amount of dissolved oxygen at the bottom.

Maureen McNeill photo

Peter Freeman has done a little experimenting of his own to learn that oysters seem to thrive in the oxygen-rich, aerated portion of an Ocean Pines canal.

7/85

Evans Builders Given Contract For Firehouse

8/17/85

SALISBURY — Evans Builders Inc. of Salisbury has been awarded the contract for construction of a new firehouse for the Salisbury Fire Department, the city council decided this week.

Evans submitted a low bid of $198,800 on the project.

The firehouse, which will provide the fire company with a third station, will be located on property bounded by Beaglin Park Drive, South Park Drive and Schumaker Drive.

Salisbury Fire Chief Francis Darling said construction is expected to begin within the next few weeks.

Salisbury Buys Property From State For $64,000

SALISBURY — The city council has decided to purchase property from the state which used to be the old maintenance and repair station for the Maryland Department of Transportation, located off Isabella Street.

Mayor W. Paul Martin said the city will eventually use the lot to help widen the "spillway" running beneath Isabella Street from Johnson Lake into the Wicomico River and to rebuild the Isabella Street bridge.

Meanwhile, the council also decided that Shore-Up! Inc. can temporarily use the parcel to service its vehicles in return for maintaining the property.

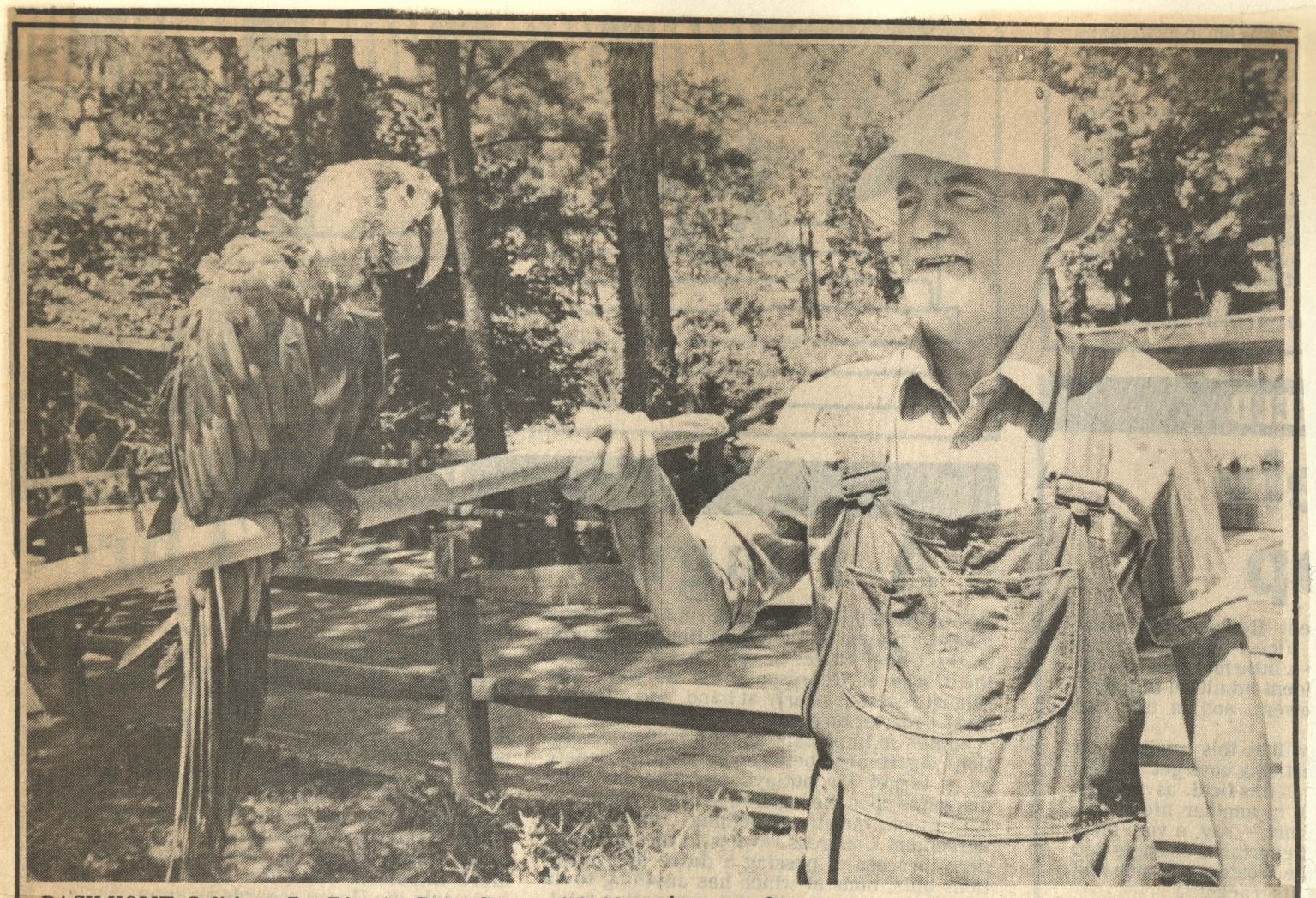
Martin said the state agreed to sell the property to the city for $64,000, or approximately $1 per square foot.

8/17/85

Erosion Control

8/14/86

Members of the Maryland Youth Conservation Corps are busy on the Wicomico River bank in Salisbury placing large stones enmeshed in wire to prevent bank erosion and soil run-off. The project is one of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources "Save the Bay" efforts and includes others in Revel's Neck, Jane's Island and the Pocomoke River. The Lower Shore Private Industry Council contributed a $47,000 grant to pay salaries of supervisors of the crews.



BACK HOME. Salisbury Zoo Director Peter Crowcroft holds a 3-month-old Green-Winged Macaw, one of three which escaped from the Salisbury Zoo after learning to fly eight days ago. One macaw not yet recaptured is believed to have been seen nearly a mile from the zoo. (Times Photo by Tom Leonard)

7/25/85

Salisbury Zoo Director Seeks Missing Green-Winged Macaw

By TOM LEONARD
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — If you see an unlikely bird in the backyard that "looks like it came right off of Long John Silver's shoulder," the Salisbury zoo director would like to hear from you.

Although two have been recaptured, one of three 3-month-old Green-Winged Macaws which took flight from the zoo eight days ago still remains at large, according to zoo director Peter Crowcroft.

One of many varieties of a South American bird familiar to collectors, the brightly colored red and green macaws are already two feet long, including the long tail. They like to make their presence known with a shrieking "squawk," familiar to anyone who lives near the zoo.

The three macaws were the first ever born at the Salisbury zoo, although varieties of the exotic birds have been on display here for years. A male purchased two years ago resulted in the first fertile eggs ever produced.

Crowcroft said zookeepers intended to clip the young birds' wings as soon as they were beginning to learn to fly from their specially constructed fiberglass nest. The first flight, however, unexpected lofted all three across the zoo creek to freedom.

CROWCROFT IS TAKING the escape in stride, escpecially since two of the birds he valued at about $500 apiece have already been recaptured unharmed. One was netted on the zoo grounds when it returned over the weekend — a second was captured on the opposite side of the zoo creek Wednesday morning.

The third has proved to be quite a traveler. Crowcroft assumes it must be the same bird sighted about a mile away in a tree at the Joe Leonard residence in the 600-block of Lincoln Avenue Tuesday afternoon.

"I thought it was a peacock at first," said Leonard, who saw the macaw atop a large red maple tree in his yard after tracking down the unusual sound. He said the neighborhood dogs would bark each time the macaw let out his squawk. Several neighbors gathered to watch before the bird slipped away.

Feeding on apples and other fruits growing in hundreds of Salisbury backyards, the renegade macaw could easily survive on its own until cold weather strikes this fall, said Crowcroft.

He said macaws can live nearly as long as humans. "He'll be alright," said Crowcroft, "robbing people's gardens."

Crowcroft asked Salisbury area residents to phone the zoo at 548-3188 if the runaway macaw is seen. (The number listed by the phone company in the new directory is incorrect.)

Zoo officials especially want to be notified if the macaw is perched within 30 feet of the ground where it could be reached with a ladder and a special pole-mounted capture net.

Zoo Appreciation Day Slated Sept. 7

SALISBURY — Final plans are being completed for the fifth annual Zoo Appreciation Day Sept. 7 from noon to 4 p.m.

This is a fund-raiser for the Friends of the Salisbury Zoo, the sponsor.

On the program will be music by Todd and Coolidge, Sunshine the Clown, food and drinks, and animal feedings. Featured will be the spectacled bears in their new exhibit which was built with funds donated by the Salisbury Exchange Club.

Last year's Zoo Appreciation Day drew more than 4,000 people and raised more than $2,000.

Renegade Macaw Visits Friends Of Zoo Picnic 8/3

SALISBURY — The last of three Green-Winged Macaws which escaped from the Salisbury zoo several weeks ago continues to elude capture after putting in an appearance during the annual Friends of the Salisbury Zoo picnic Thursday.

The wayward macaw, a large South American bird, has been sighted numerous times in the Shumaker Drive, Beaglin Park, Glen Avenue area, but always perches in tall trees where zookeepers have been unable to net it as they did with the other three.

Zoo director Peter Crowcroft said the 200 guests at the zoo picnic got a laugh Thursday as the macaw stopped by to serenade them from the tops of the zoo's tall trees before flying off to an unknown location.

Escaped Macaw Is Recaptured At Zoo 8/7/85

SALISBURY — The animal supervisor of the Salisbury zoo lured an escaped green-winged macaw into complacency by approaching him holding another young macaw, then grabbed the renegade bird Tuesday to end its month of freedom.

Salisbury Zoo Director Peter Crowcroft said Gary Muir stood on a ladder and recaptured the bird with his bare hands after it made one of its frequent visits to the zoo nest from which it escaped with two siblings last month.

Crowcroft said the bird appeared in perfect health but had "fruit stains all over its face" from eating wild cherries. It was returned to the macaw exhibit — but with clipped wings — later Tuesday.

Route 50 Bypass In Jeopardy

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

9/85

SALISBURY — A decision on whether or not to construct a proposed Route 50 bypass to extend around the north end of the city must be made in the near future or the project may be lost, according to Salisbury-Wicomico Planning Director William Livingston.

The urgency of the decision surfaced Monday night at a public hearing in which the city council was presented with a plan for further development in the Northwood Industrial Park — through which the proposed bypass would run.

Richard Cooper, a surveyor for Henry Hanna, who owns a portion of the park, asked the council to remove a zoning variance, which governs a parcel of land through which the bypass would extend, to allow a company to build there. Cooper did not reveal the name of the company, but said it is currently being pursued by SWED (Salisbury-Wicomico Economic Development, Inc.)

UNDER THE present zoning variance, any company which moves onto that particular strech of land must "reserve" it for two years before developing it, just in case a decision is made to construct the bypass. The Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission denied construction plans submitted by the company in question on Aug. 15 because of the variance.

Cooper said five acres out of 15 which the company wishes to purchase would be located in this particular tract. In return for removing the variance, he said the company would agree not to construct any buildings on the tract, but instead, would build a parking lot, or another such structure which could be removed in the future if the bypass were constructed.

The council unanimously passed Cooper's request Monday night, expressing at the same time, however, some fear that the proposed bypass may be in danger.

Yet Mayor W. Paul Martin said it was "asinine" to prevent a company from moving to the city because of the variance when the project has been talked about for 17 years and still has not been carried out.

Martin explained that the variance was first put into the codes by the state, and was later removed by the city council. However, he said several years ago, the city council agreed to place the variance back into the codes fearing that traffic through the city would increase further when the Cambridge and Vienna bridges became "traffic movers" instead of "bottlenecks."

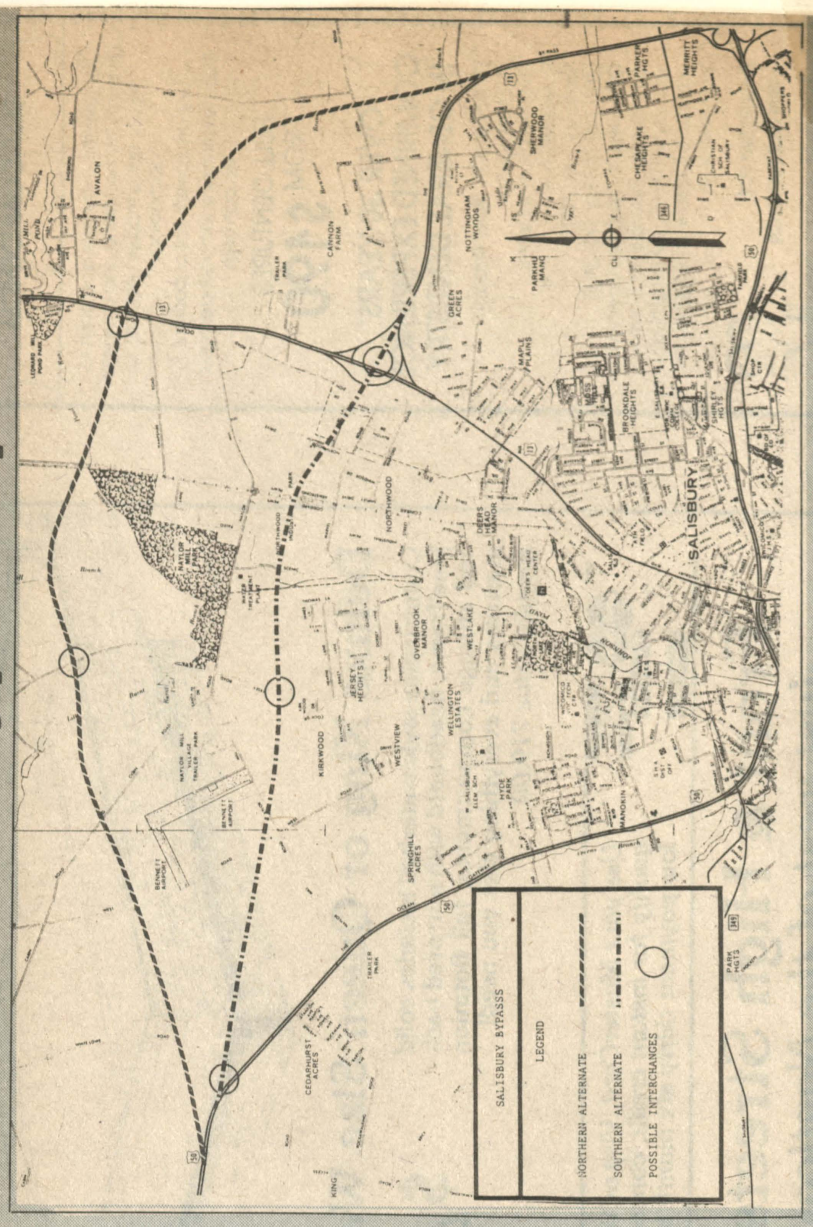
THE PURPOSE of the bypass would be to relieve much of the traffic Salisbury experiences during the summer with beach-bound vacationers.

Martin blamed the state for delaying the project thus far. "The state has held this back for 15 years," Martin charged. "They've had all the time in the world."

Livingston said the state has not moved ahead with the bypass project because there currently is not enough funding for it.

He said city and county officials have urged the state to set up an emergency acquistion fund to purchase the land for the bypass in advance, before any more development takes place.

Alternatives offered in Route 50 bypass plan



At a meeting Tuesday, September 17, the Maryland Department of Transportation presented a new option in its Route 50 bypass proposal.

By MAUREEN McNEILL
Editor

In the midst of increased development along the proposed corridor for a Route 50 bypass, the Maryland Department of Transportation (DoT) has introduced an alternate plan. A new "northern alignment" proposal calls for a bypass that skirts the Northwood Industrial Park, but retains access to it.

Salisbury and Wicomico officials say the new plan comes not a moment too soon, as development makes the original route less and less likely.

A long-range plan for a Route 50 bypass has been on DoT books for quite some time. As the state moves to meet its deadline for completing Maryland's portion of the federal interstate highway system and to replace or repair its own bridges, the bypass has remained a relatively low priority item. At a meeting in Salisbury Tuesday evening, September 17, however, State Highway Administration (SHA) officials received the community support required to put a bypass back on their agenda.

State Highway Administrator Hal Kassoff informed those present — a group that included members of the Eastern Shore delegation to the Maryland General Assembly and representatives from Wicomico County and Salisbury government and from the Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Salisbury Committee — that with the necessary community support, the Route 50 bypass could be put on the SHA Fiscal 1987 agenda. From that point, the SHA would have to conduct studies and receive location approval — a process that Kassoff estimates could take 2 years.

Wicomico County Planning Director William Livingston stressed to the DoT officials that "pressures are increasing" as development in the industrial park and along the northern Route 13 corridor continue. Potential locations for an interchange are beginning to disappear, Livingston warned, as the greater Salisbury area is developed.

Because purchasing land to retain a right of way for the bypass is considered only as a last resort, the plans for a northern alignment have become necessary, according to Kassoff. Even in this case, he added, the SHA and the local government will have to get property owners to see the bypass as a mutually beneficial project. This, said Kassoff, "is an art, rather than a science," as the completely limited access that the bypass would require is a difficult selling point.

Representatives of business and government alike promised any support necessary to get the plan moving, as completion of bypasses at Cambridge and Vienna will make the need in Salisbury even more accute. Kassoff assured the group that "U.S. 50 is as important to statewide interests as it is on the Shore."

House OKs 5 Shore Projects

WASHINGTON — Rep. Roy Dyson has announced that the House of Representatives has approved the spending of $3,290,000 on water development projects in the 1st Congressional District.

"The money has been appropriated for the improvement of several Eastern Shore waterways and the projects will be completed by the Army Corps of Engineers," said Dyson.

All are included in the 1986 Energy and Water Development Appropriation Bill, which passed the House on voice vote.

The five Eastern Shore projects include:

$1,090,000 for dredging of the Wicomico River which averages around 11 feet in depth. The dredging project will produce a depth of 14 feet for the length of the river. Dredging is expected to halt some of the erosion of the river banks.

$435,000 for dredging of the Ocean City harbor, inlet and Sinepuxent Bay. All three waterways will be dredged to a depth of 10 feet. Approximately 400,000 cubic yards of sand will be dredged and be used for beach buildup in the Ocean City Area.

Council Supporting Study For Bypass

9/2

SALISBURY — The Wicomico County Council has voted to send a letter of support to the Maryland Department of Transportation for the study of a proposed Route 50 bypass.

DOT officials said at a meeting held here Sept. 17 with county government representatives that they would need to receive local support in order to continue to study the project currently under consideration.

The bypass has been discussed between the DOT and local officials for the past several years, and public hearings were held at one time by the DOT on the project, however, it was dropped when it was learned there was not enough state funding, said William Livingston, county planning director.

Council Closes Unnamed Alley

9/26/85

SALISBURY — An unnamed alley between Monroe Street and Eastern Shore Drive has been closed through an ordinance passed by the city council.

The 15-foot-wide roadway will now be conveyed to the owners of those properties adjacent to the alley for their own uses.

NEWS IN BRIEF

9/10/85

Salisbury Buys Property For Riverfront Project

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council voted Monday night to purchase two vacant lots located on Lake Street between Route 50 and W. Main Street for $94,000 to use for its riverfront revitalization project.

Mayor W. Paul Martin said the lots will be resurfaced and used as parking lots as part of the $36 million project.

The purchase agreement followed a year of negotiations between the city and the owner of the properties, Elaine Weatherly.

City sewer system reaching limit

SALISBY ADV. 9/18/85

By BARBARA AUDET
Staff Writer

Reacting to concerns about the growing demands for increased sewer and water treatment in the city of Salisbury, the City Council voted unanimously on Monday, September 9, to take the most cost-effective route in correcting one problem in its system.

Thomas Plotts and Kenneth Haensler spoke during the public hearing on the proposed separation of sewer and storm water in the Newtown area. An addition to the "facility plan," that was originally submitted in March, 1979, states that there are failing septic systems north of Salisbury, which are affecting "the quality of drinking water in that area."

"The City is unable to provide sewer service due to a combination of a nearby trunk sewer being too small and in-town interceptor sewers being overtaxed by the presence of combined sewers that add storm water to sanitary sewage flows," according to the facility plan for the North Side Interceptor Reinforcement.

The problem was called to the attention of the city, in the spring of 1982, when businessmen, the Wicomico County Health Department and city personnel got together to discuss "annexation." Annexation, they said, was needed so that the businesses most affected (many off of Route 13) would be able to hook into the city's sewer service. The Mayor and Council, at that time, voted against any annexation after taking into consideration what the ultimate costs would be. Many of those businesses are hotels located on Route 13.

Since then Wicomico County has received a request to create an Urban Services District (USD), which facilitated the city being asked once again to review its postion and the alternatives available. Of four possible plans, the most economical and reasonable, said Plotts, is to separate storm drainage from sanitary sewage flow in the North Division street area where a combined system is now in existence. During intense rainstorms, the sewers on Park Avenue and Isabella Street overflow because of this. Raw sewage is also discharged during these periods directly into the Wicomico River. By separating these two systems, Plotts argued that there would be a "substantial increase" in the capacity of the system. Some of this conversion has already taken place, removing many houses from the combined system, leaving the sewers open to storm water only. Currently, the combined flow is going to the Mill Street pumping station.

The completion of this project, Plotts said, would eliminate a significant health hazard, with the very minimal of construction costs or legal steps. No wet lands would be affected. "It will not be necessary to tear up any streets," said Haensler.

The project would cost approximately $200,000 and would be under the auspices of the Environmental Protection Agency, with the design work being completed by city engineering personnel.

The plan has been submitted to Maryland's Department of Health. The city is waiting for their evaluation of the proposal, before proceeding further.

Sewer Service Sought From City

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The council also resolved to ask the city to do a preliminary study to determine what the total cost of sewer service to the Manokin community would be.

The county received approval from HUD several months ago for a community development block grant to help fund the provision of sewer lines to the lower income neighborhood, which has had problems in the past with an overflow of sewage.

Although the grant would pay for most of the cost of the sewer project, public hearings will need to be held, once plans for the project are finalized, to see whether or not the residents in the community would be able to afford the remainder of the project's cost, according to county administrator Matthew E. Creamer.

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9/13

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According to refuse collection regulations, legal containers include any metal or other damage-resistant, non-corrodable, non-absorbent, non-leakable containers with tight covers which do not exceed 20-gallon capacity per steel container or 32-gallon capacity for lightweight plastic or rubber containers.

Plastic bags may be used only for grass trimmings, leaves or other outdoor refuse, according to the regulations.

City imposes fine for bagged waste

SAL. AD 9/18/85

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Recently, it has been observed that many residents are using plastic bags again even though they may own legal containers. In the interest of sanitation and a cleaner city, the City urges citizens of Salisbury to purchase and use legal containers. Failure to do so is a municipal infraction which could result in fines of $25 for a first offense and $50 for repeat offenses. It is not the desire of City officials to issue citiations, rather they are asking for voluntary cooperation and compliance.

One official pointed out the relationship of using proper refuse containers to the Chesapeake Bay Initiative which is of vital interest to all Marylanders. All streets in Salisbury drain to the Wicomico River and its tributaries and, in turn, to the Chesapeake Bay. All street litter, including refuse from broken bags, is flushed to these waters when rainfall occurs and it not only pollutes but it also causes the river to become an eyesore rather than a pleasant asset.

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Wicomico Planning Numbering System

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Plans for a new "county numbering system" for Wicomico County, designed to aid the 911 emergency system, were approved Tuesday by the county council.

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LIVINGSTON said that many times in the past emergency crews have had problems getting to residences with no street name or number, resulting in life-threatening delays.

A transition to the new system will probably mean changing some existing street names or house numbers, which Livingston said may cause some controversy.

"Most people just don't like the idea of having to change their personal addresses," Livingston said. "But most people also realize the ultimate benefits will be worth a little bit of trouble."

Livingston said the public will have a chance to air their opinions on the matter before any renumbering takes place.

The system will not be mandatory for incorporated cities or towns within the county, which will be free to choose whether or not they wish to adopt it.

Livingston said the city of Salisbury will probably not be included in the plan, since it already has a numbering system.

MANY COUNTIES in Maryland adopting uniform numbering systems as a result of the transition to the 911 emergency system, according to Livingston.

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The project is being funded by $5,000 already allotted in the county budget for fiscal 1986.

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First, under state law, it is illegal to burn leaves where collection is provided. The City of Salisbury will collect leaves as part of its regular bi-weekly collection if they are placed at the curb in garbage cans, baskets or heavy duty plastic bags.

In addition, during the fall season, the city will collect leaves and pine needles on Wednesdays through the month of December.

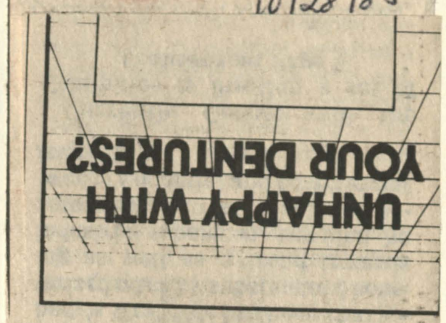
In the past, many citizens have raked leaves into the street. This practice is unlawful under Chapter 136 of the city code because piles of leaves in the street constitute a driving hazard, particularly when wet, and they clog storm drain systems.

The cooperation of the public is requested, and police enforcement will be in effect.

Committee unveils plan for West Side development

By DENNIS FRIEDEL
Special to the News & Advertiser

10/28/85



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City wants leaves controlled

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County council memebers voted to keep Salisbury as its contractor for water and sewer service and accept the rate hike after Sharma told them the county received one other bid for the service from another contractor, whose prices were higher than those of the city.

The cost of new sewer hookups will increase from $625 to $1,000 and water hookups from $625 to $875.

10-16-85

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SALISBURY ADV. 9/18/85

By BARBARA AUDET
Staff Writer

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Wicomico Planning Numbering System

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

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Committee unveils plan for West Side development

By DENNIS FRIEDEL
Special to the News & Advertiser

10/28/85

Members of the Downtown Revitalization Committee unveiled a preliminary plan last week to seek public input for improvements along Salisbury's West Side — offering what could amount to a $2,000 award for the winning presentation.

According to Pete Cooper, manager of the Downtown Revitalization Office, city officials have already granted approval of the concept, which involves a series of public forums followed by a contest to choose a plan most suitable for this phase of the city's proposal to bring a new look to the West Side.

"The basic idea," Cooper said, "is a general feeling that there should be a substantial amount of input from the community before anything is put in place. The West Side has been talked about a lot," he added, "but nothing so far has been planned."

Along those lines, according to Cooper, the Revitalization Committee plans to hold at least two public hearings before Christmas to entertain suggestions for the West Side facelift. "We don't want to ignore any segment of the community before a plan is developed," Cooper said.

The area in question, Cooper said, encompasses that area of the City from the north prong of the Wicomico River to Salisbury's western city limits and from Route 50 to the river.

"I think it's important to address those areas with a less than positive situation and that a lot of thought be given on how to deal with them," Cooper said.

According to Cooper, Salisbury's West Side has been characterized often by substandard housing as well as a trend towards industrial expansion. Any plan, he noted, must strike a balance between residential and commercial interests.

Currently, Cooper said, the Committee is drafting a set of

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t of new sewer hookups se from $625 to $1,000 hookups from $625 to

10-16-85

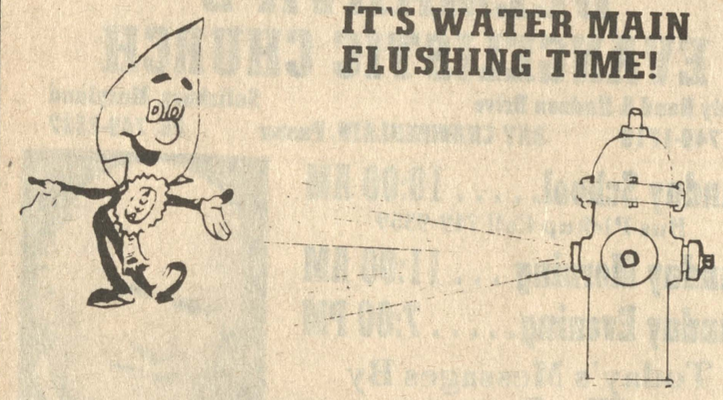
Firehouse Groundbreaking

9/9/85

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Salisbury Fire Station, to be known as Station No. 1, were held late last week at the 1100 Beaglin Park Drive site. Taking part in the ceremony were, from left, Norman Conway, President of the Salisbury City Council; Kenneth Haensler, Director of Public Works, Ron Ardis, architect, Francis Darling, chief of Salisbury Fire Department; Henry Parker, President of the Wicomico County Council, Martha Graham, city councilwoman, W. Paul Martin, mayor, and Norman Holland Jr., city councilman. (Times Photo)

NOTICE!

IT'S WATER MAIN FLUSHING TIME!



Every so often it's necessary for us to flush our water mains to get rid of corrosion sediment. We have found that a semi-annual main cleaning will reduce the problem during the remainder of the year.

There is nothing unusual or harmful about this. All water systems have the same problem, especially those furnishing soft deep-well water as we do in Salisbury.

To minimize inconvenience, we will flush our system late at night beginning Nov. 6, 1985 and continuing for about 3 days (ordinarily between 8:00 p.m. and 4 a.m.) There will be no interruption of service while this is in progress. Some discoloration of the water supply may be expected at the time your area is being flushed.

This discoloration, if it occurs, should clear up quickly, and if experienced at your residence or place of business, you can facilitate clearing by letting a faucet run for a short time.

THANK YOU! **City of Salisbury, Water Dept.**

11/2/85

2 THE DAILY TIMES Salis

NEWS IN BRIEF

City Water Mains Will Be Flushed

SALISBURY — The department of public works here will begin flushing all public water mains at approximately 375 hydrants next Wednesday, and warns that city residents may experience some discoloration of their water as a result.

The purpose of the flushing program, which takes place semi-annually, is to clear the city's water distribution system of corrosion sediment, which would otherwise find its way into consumers' plumbing fixtures, according to department director Kenneth Haensler.

The system will be flushed between 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. nightly through Saturday, Nov. 9. Although there may be some discoloration, Haensler said there will be no interruption of customer service while the flushing is in progress. He also said any discoloration that occurrs can be cleared quickly by letting a faucet run for a short time.

Riverfront Plan 'Off, Running'

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Pete Cooper says his motto is to "think 20 years ahead, talk 10 years ahead, and fund five years ahead."

The director of Salisbury's riverfront revitalization office has put his words into practice lately, and then some, with what is to become the largest construction project every undertaken in the city.

Cooper said the riverfront project to be constructed here is farther ahead of schedule than he had ever hoped it would be. "We've been running instead of walking," he said.

Planned for the past five years by a local consulting group called R/UDAT, the $36 million project will be carried out by Fox Limited Partnership of Columbia, Md., which signed a development agreement with the city council in April.

And Salisbury will see some marked changes in the next five years once the project is completed, Cooper said.

THE PROJECT has already been started, with construction of a new marina under way. Cooper said that, according to the development agreement, Fox Limited must finish the first phase of what is to be a seven-phase project within the next 18 months.

That first phase includes construction of two mall-type buildings similar to Harborplace in Baltimore and Fanuiel Hall in Boston and a large produce and seafood market similar to Lexington Market in Baltimore. The remaining phases, planned over the next five to seven years, include construction of a hotel, a townhouse complex, a warehouse, a retail district and a performing stage.

"Salisbury is destined to be a regional center," Cooper predicted.

Salisbury has been known for years as a cultural and economic "hub" on the Eastern Shore, according to the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce, as well as the major retail center of the Shore.

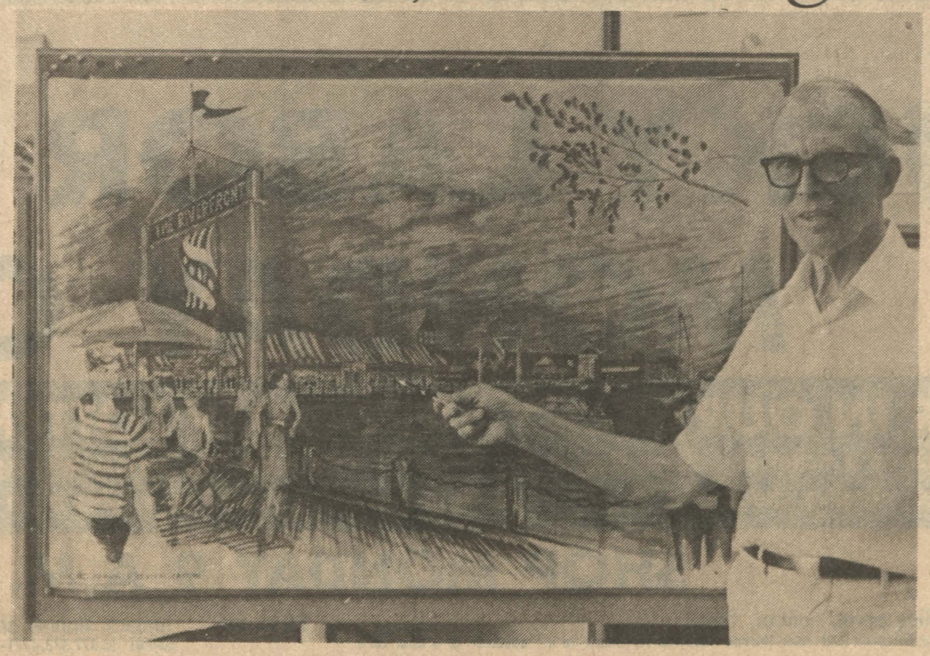
Many companies have also set up their regional headquarters in Salisbury, with its many avenues of accessability — including the intersection of the two main highways on the Shore — Routes 13 and 50 — and the second largest airport and second largest port in the state.

COOPER SAID the success of the riverfront project will depend on the city gaining status as a regional center, and that it will need to draw tourists from all over the Eastern Shore to turn a profit.

Once this occurs, however, Cooper said a domino effect will take place in which businesses here that profit will draw more businesses and more tourists, and it will be "fashionable" to come downtown again. "That's where all the action is going to be," Cooper said. "We want to make this popular enough so people will make downtown a destination."

Cooper said he hopes that with the success of the project, more cultural events and attractions — including a performing arts center — will appear in the downtown area, and that existing attractions — such as the Ward Foundation at Salisbury State College — will move downtown from their present locations.

"We want people to park their car downtown and leave it there," Cooper said.



NEW RIVERFRONT. Pete Cooper, director of the Salisbury Downtown Revitalization Office, points to a drawing of the riverfront as it is expected to appear once the $36 million revitalization project proposed for downtown Salisbury is completed. (Times Photo)

City Told To Move Fast On Riverfront

10/8/85

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — This city's riverfront revitalization project leaders should waste no time in moving ahead with their plans less they lose millions of dollars in Industrial Revenue Bonds,, according to Thomas Maddox, Maryland's secretary of economic and community development.

In an address given here to the Regional Urban Development Assistance Team for Salisbury and various business, community and government officials, Maddox said those involved with the project should "get their act together or they'll miss the boat."

MADDOX SAID the "whole issue" of IRB's will soon be up for review by the federal government, which may drop the tax-free bond program now available through various state governments to cities and counties across the U.S.

Meanwhile, the Regional Action Group's plans for the seven-phase riverfront revitalization along the banks of the Wicomico River here will depend on the sale of IRBs, according to city executive secretary Patrick Fennell.

The city must first furnish the state with finalized plans for the project before it can be considered for IRB allocations, Fennell said.

Presently, however, only the plans for the first phase — which includes a marina and adjacent "Harborplace"-type mall — are finalized and have been approved for IRB funding. Fennell said a "tentative" $5.6 million in IRBs has been allocated to Fox Limited Partnership, the developer contracted by the city for the $36 million revitalization project.

Thomas Maddox

PLANS FOR the other six phases — to include a hotel, a warehouse, a farmers' market, two housing developments and a commercial district — are still in the working stages, as they have been for the past five years, according to Fennell.

However, Fennell said the city's first concern is to get the IRB to sell to fund the completion of the marina and mall, the first of which is already under construction. He said the city council will be meeting soon to discuss future efforts on the rest of the project.

Maddox praised the riverfront project, saying it, together with other plans for development throughout Maryland, will help the state raise its number of tourists from a current 23 million per year to a future target of 30 million.

He said improving the environment is crucial to achieving this goal, and that the state currently has $600 million worth of IRBs to aid cities and counties that wish to make such improvements. However, he said Salisbury has to "take a little bit of a risk ... (and) make things happen," before the federal government possibly does away with the IRB program.

Old Hotel Dismantled For Project

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — He built it up with his own hands.

Now, 49 years later, R.E. Cook is tearing his hotel down — with some remorse.

Cook's Hotel, as it has been known to overnight tourists and monthly roomers alike, is quickly becoming a skeleton of the 20-room house it used to be as its 82-year-old owner hurries to strip the building of its valuables before the city's wrecking ball flattens it.

The city bought the hotel from Cook about a year ago for approximately $55,000 with plans to destroy it and construct a parking lot for its "Riverfronts" downtown revitalization project. The old hotel is located along Route 50 on Small Road and is probably more well known in its ruins than it has ever been.

ALTHOUGH HE was reluctant to sell the building, Cook said he did not want to face condemnation proceedings, and felt too old to build a new hotel, which he said would have cost him four times the amount of the old hotel to operate under current building codes.

However, city executive secretary Patrick Fennell said Cook has also apparently been reluctant to tear the building down. According to his sales contract with the city, Cook was given 90 days from the time the hotel was sold to demolish the building.

"He (Cook) let it drag on for a year," Fennell said. "We've given him extensions month to month but he hasn't been able to get it down."

THE CITY COUNCIL recently voted to give no more extensions to Cook and to demolish the building. The council has since received two bids during the past week for the demolition project, according to city purchasing officials who said a bid is expected to be awarded within the next month.

"Anytime a person uses his own hands to create something, he hates to see it go," Cook said of his delay.

REMAINS. Owner R.E. Cook stands in front of the ruins of a hotel he built in Salisbury that is being demolished to make way for riverfront development. Cook continues to salvage materials from the old building. (Times Photo by Michele Dietz)

He said he constructed the building "from scratch, one or two boards at a time" using some materials which are now 200 years old. Now, he said, he will be left with a garage he plans to build out of the materials he is salvaging.

The hotel is just one of the old buildings on a stretch of downtown property along the Wicomico River the city has eyed for demolition so it can carry on its revitalization project, a $36 million, seven-phase effort to change the face of Salisbury over the next several years.

"Improvements," Cook said, referring to the city's revitalization project, shaking his head as he shoveled some broken cement from the old hotel's porch, "you can look for them anytime."

Marina Plans OK'd

11/26/85

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The second and final phase of construction of Salisbury's new marina now can begin following the Salisbury City Council's approval Monday night of several landscaping decisions made by the city's marina committee.

Phase two of the marina project mainly includes utilities, fuel service, landscaping and construction of a dockmaster's quarters, according to Pete Cooper, director of the Salisbury Downtown Revitalization Office, which is in charge of the plans for the new marina.

Meanwhile, phase one, which consists of the construction of the bulkheading and slips in the marina, has been completed by George & Lynch, Inc., Cooper said.

THE ENTIRE project will end up costing about $300,000, and is being funded by city and state funding, according to Cooper.

The marina is the first of a seven-phasee downtown riverfront revitalization project expected to cost approximately $36 million.

The council approved of the marina committee's proposal to negate several parking spaces from the original plans and instead install some landscaping which will act as a "screen," and to place fencing around the marina for security reasons.

Return Of Plaza To Roadway Urged

One-Way Route Running West Studied

11/3/85

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — This city's Downtown Plaza — before 1966 a two-way street running through the community's center — now is most familiar as an attractively decorated pedestrian thoroughfare lined with clothing shops, specialty stores, offices and restaurants.

But some downtown businessmen with establishments located on what once was a portion of Main Street now are trying to have the pedestrian-only thoroughfare changed back to a roadway — although this time into a a one-way route running west.

THE DOWNTOWN Association, a group of local merchants and professionals, decided at its Friday meeting to research the "pros and cons" of the idea, said association president J. Phillips Wright.

Wright said he hopes the group will take a stance on the issue but indicated that may be difficult because opinion currently is divided.

If the association votes to support opening the plaza to vehicular traffic, a proposal would then be put to the city council, he said.

Wright said the issue, which has been debated in years past, resurfaced recently due to the nearby riverfront revitalization project which is expected to help downtown growth.

WRIGHT SAID said making the plaza a one-way street instead of a two-way route, will bring the "least effective change on the plaza's current condition and aesthetic appearance," while increasing visibility and accessibility.

"I think window shopping from automobiles has long passed." — Mayor W. Paul Martin.

He said he formerly was against re-opening the plaza to traffic, but now as association president, he will keep an open mind. "I think the plaza has a pleasant atmosphere in which to shop, where people can walk the street and not be afraid of being hit by a car," Wright said.

Mayor W. Paul Martin said he is also against the idea of re-opening the plaza to traffic, although he listen to any proposals.

MAIN STREET was closed and the plaza created after Route 50 was extended through Salisbury to give businesses there an opportunity to better compete with malls which were opening at the time, Martin said. The project has achieved its goal, he said.

Re-opening the plaza to traffic would be a "tremendous expense," of at least $500,000, as well as a waste of the $140,000 spent on closing it, Martin said.

"I think window shopping from automobiles has long passed," Martin said. "I think the plaza is beautiful as it is, and I see nothing to be gained by opening it up to traffic."

SEVERAL OWNERS and employees of businesses located in the plaza, however, have expressed strong views in favor of re-opening the plaza to traffic.

William Ahtes, owner of the City Center and Gunby's Galleria, both on the plaza, is among those favoring the new concept.

"I don't care how beautiful it

(See PLAZA, page 3)

ONE-WAY STREET? Some business owners along the Downtown Plaza are proposing that the pedestrian-only section of Main Street be opened again to automobile traffic. (Times Photo by Michele Dietz)

PLAZA

(Continued from page 1)

(the plaza) is — nobody sees it," Ahtes said, pointing out that most of the plaza storefronts cannot be seen from the street. "We just get a few shoppers and people that work downtown, and that's not enough."

When the plaza first opened, Ahtes said it was like "a shot in the arm," to business, but said that the boost has now worn off.

HE SAID six stores which rented space in the City Center and at least 25 stores altogether left the plaza since it was closed to traffic. Opening the plaza, Ahtes said, would increase business by at least 20 percent immediately.

"The exposure downtown would get would be dramatic," he said. "We have a driving public — people like to ride in their cars and look at things."

Robert Sweet, president of White & Leonard, an office supplies and furniture store located on the street since 1886, said he agrees, and that his store may join the ranks of those abandoning the plaza to open up elsewhere due to the lack of business.

SWEET SAID it would be "tragic" for the store to move, but that it may be inevitable if business continues to lag.

"It's a beautiful place and I'd love to stay there, but if business doesn't pick up, we'll more than likely look for a place outside of downtown, Sweet said. "We can't afford to continue our retail business when it's not growing." Wright said the company must make a decision in about a year, when its lease contract expires.

Sweet said opening the plaza could "do nothing but improve visibility," and retail is a visible commodity. "If you can drive by the plaza and see how nice it is, there's more chance you'll come there to shop," he said. "I don't think traffic one-way will take away from the beauty of it a bit."

Plazas similar to Salisbury's in Rockville, Ill., and Norfolk, Va., which once were closed, currently are open to auto traffic due to poor business, Ahtes noted.

Few People See Downtown Area

Editor Of The Times:

I would like to comment on the story carried in *The Daily Times* about the Downtown Plaza in Salisbury being returned to a street.

I think it would be the best thing to happen downtown — to turn it into a one-way street.

It would help a lot of people — especially the elderly who can not walk the distance — and do a great job at get shoppers back downtown.

People like Mayor Pual Martin don't do the shopping that the women do.

I worked downtown for over 30 years and was there when the work was being done to turn it into a plaza. My brother, who was working for the city at that time, would come to the store where I worked from time to time and I told him it was the worst thing ever done to Salisbury and I feel that I was right.

I feel sure that it is the cause of shoppers leaving Main Street. I agree with William Ahthes who was quoted in your story. I don't care how beautiful downtown is; few people see it.

My vote is for returning the Downtown Plaza to a street.

Laura Baker
Salisbury

'Get On With Your Life'

Laura Gulyas

SALISBURY — "The main goal of the disabled should be to get on with your life and live it," said Laura Jean Gulyas, who suffered a spinal cord injury in a diving accident in Ocean City in August of 1983.

Two years after that potentially life-shattering accident that included a year of hospitalization, Ms. Gulyas is getting on with her life as evidenced by her runner-up finish in the Ms. Maryland Wheelchair Pageant held recently in Baltimore.

"I don't look at myself as being disabled," said Miss Gulyas a couple of days after the pageant. "I've just had a change in career goals."

Prior to the accident, Ms. Gulyas, whose parents, Steve and Louise Gulyas, live in Ocean City, had used the biology degree she earned from Salisbury State College to gain a position as a laboratory technician for the City of Salisbury. Now, she has returned to SSC to pursue a master's degree in education with an eye toward becoming a high school science or biology teacher.

"Going back to school, getting out," said Ms. Gulyas, is one of the most important things a recently disabled person must do. "You can't be worried about people staring at you. You need to develop a positive attitude."

SHE IS sharing that positive attitude with others who have recently been forced to deal with a disabling injury as a counselor for the National Spinal Cord Injury Hotline. The hotline is designed to alleviate the fears of the disabled individual as well as his or her family. The hotline counselors detail types of educational information and agencies in a particular person's area that provides help to the handicapped as well as rehabilitation hospitals in the vicinity. Equally important, they represent, to the disabled, people who encountered similar fears and doubts about re-entering life's mainstream.

People who are disabled, however, are not the only ones who need to be educated about their ability to lead a "normal" life.

"It is important," said Ms. Gulyas, "that "non-disbled" people ask questions of people who are disabled and attempt to fully understand the physical things the disabled can and can't do. I can get around as well as other people who are not disabled.

"Before I was hurt," said Ms. Gulyas. "I pitied the disabled. That was wrong. I'm intelligent, I speak well."

Her communication skills were a key to her selection as a runner-up in the Ms. Maryland Wheelchair Pageant.

EACH CONTESTANT had to submit three essays: one on their personal achievements; one on their adjustments to their disablility, and a third on their future goals and ambitions. They were also judged on their communicative skills and their self-perception and projection.

"It was fun," said Ms. Gulyas of the pageant, one that took considerable prodding by her friends before she would enter. "I met lots of people with positive attitudes. It was refreshing to see others who didn't look at themselves or someone else with a handicap as anything less than a whole person. They took everyone at face value.

"The disabled don't want to be pampered," said Ms. Gulyas. "People don't look at someone with diabetes as being disabled. So, why look at someone in a wheelchair as being disabled."

In addition to her studies, Ms. Gulyas, in conjunction with Dr. Joel Rodney, vice president for academic affairs at Salisbury State College, is establishing a local version of the National Hotline through the campus health center.

"People who are disabled want to be recognized as people without disabilities," said Ms. Gulyas. "Which we are!"

Christmas Nears

11/21/85

A 32-foot Christmas tree is prepared for unloading on the Downtown Plaza in Salisbury Wednesday. Helping with the tree are, from left, Calvin Selby of J. Roland Dashiell and Sons, contractors; city employee Russell Taylor, Joe Pollio of the Downtown Revitalization Office and Ray Smith, supervisor of Public Works for the city. The tree was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Boyd of near Salisbury. (Times Photo by Brice Stump)

Salisbury Snow Plan Is Updated

SALISBURY — With winter approaching, the Salisbury Public Works Department has updated its emergency plan and made its equipment ready for plowing, salting and sidewalk clearing.

The emergency plan of the City of Salisbury Public Works Department will be reviewed with the employees and the equipment inspected by city officials at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27.

The city snow removal equipment includes six truck-mounted plows, three truck-plows equipped with salt spreaders, a road grader, two front end loaders, several small tractors with front end plows and two snow blowers. The salt bins at the City Service Center are full.

The Public Works Department employs about 100 people, most of whom are on emergency call to go into action when needed.

Certain streets, designated as snow emergency routes, have been posted with signs and will receive first priority attention for plowing and salting. When an emergency is declared by the police chief, disabled or parked vehicles and vehicles not equipped with approved snow tires or chains may be removed from these streets by authority of the police department.

This will ensure efficient clearing of the streets by public works equipment and maximum public safety. It is the city's basic policy to plow only the snow emergency routes when snow depth is 4 inches or less.

When accumulation is more than 4 inches, the minor streets will be plowed after the emergency routes have been put in good condition.

12/4/85

Precautions Can Save Water Pipes

SALISBURY — Cold weather is here.

During past winters, very cold temperatures and winds caused hundreds of frozen pipes in homes and business establishments. All of these were probably avoidable if the owners or occupants had taken reasonable precautions.

As a public service, the Salisbury Public Works Department suggests several precautions that wil prevent frozen pipes during the winter:

•Close in open crawl spaces and under porch areas where pipes are exposed to protect the pipes from cold winds;

•Insulate pipes in areas likely to go below the freezing temperature;

•Allow a tap to trickle during very cold weather, especially at night when there is no water flow in the building for many hours because moving water is not likely to freeze and the cost to run a trickle is minor;

•If building is vacant, call the water department for prompt turnoff and then drain the system.

If pipes burst, shut off the main valve right away in order to prevent costly wastage of water. If the main valve cannot be located, call the water department at 548-3115 or public works department at 548-3177 during business hours in order to have the water cut off at the meter. During nights and weekends, call the police department, which will contact emergency workers promptly.

12/5/85

Many residents and businesses that have pipes which have burst may receive excessive water and sewer bills. Upon application to the public works department at 548-3170 an adjustment of the sewer bill only will be initiated upon presentation of sufficient evidence that the high bill resulted from burst pipes caused by freezing.

Public Works Readies for The Winter

Winter is on its way!

With the rather mild fall season we have had so far, it is difficult to realize that we will soon be having snow, sleet and freezing rain to make life outdoors miserable and dangerous. The City of Salisbury Public Works Department does not forget about winter and is ready for the worst. Their Emergency Plan has been updated and their equipment made ready for plowing, salting and sidewalk clearing.

On Wednesday, Nov. 27, 1985 at 3:30 p.m. the Plan will be reviewed with the employees and the equipment inspected by City Officials.

The City snow removal equipment includes six (6) truck-mounted plows, three (3) truck-plows equipped with salt spreaders, a road grader, two (2) front end loaders, several small tractors with front end plows and two (2) snow blowers. The salt bins at the City Service Center are full.

The Public Works Department employs about 100 people, most of whom are on emergency call to go into action when needed.

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Advertiser - 12/4/85

Cold Weather Precautions

Advertiser 12/11/85

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Downtown Shuttle Plan Is Approved

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

12/10/85

SALISBURY — The City Council on Monday approved the implementation of a shuttle system using vehicles similar to golf carts to transport shoppers to and from the Downtown Plaza.

Bob Culver, of Culver & Company, who proposed the shuttle, said he expects the system to be in operation by next March.

City council members said the new system proposed by Culver could be the answer to helping restore ailing retail business downtown. Several local retailers on the plaza recently have said that their businesses are suffering due to a lack of accessability and visibility because the plaza is open to pedestrians only. This has sparked heated debate during the past month on whether the plaza should be re-opened to vehicular traffic.

CULVER SAID HE he proposed the shuttle system after his plan for a bus transportation system fizzled two years ago because it was "cost prohibitive." However, he said he accelerated his plans for the shuttle after learning of the recent debate over the plaza.

The shuttle system will be called the Salisbury Shuttle System and will be a joint partnership between Culver, who also owns Paddle Wheels of Salibury, the paddleboats at the city park, and David Brown of Pasco, a local electronics company.

According to initial plans, Culver said the business would operate two carts, which would could transport four to five people each at 25 cents a head.

THE SHUTTLE ROUTE would run from Route 50 to Carroll Street, and from Route 13 to Mill Street, Culver said, and the carts would transport pedestrians from parking lots in the central business district to and from the plaza.

"This will give access to people who now have difficulty getting from the parking lots to the shops," Culver said. "And not only will it (the shuttle) be effective as transportation. It will be fun too. Some people will ride out of necessity, some out of curiosity, and some out of fun."

Culver said he was optimistic the council would approve of his plans, and has already ordered the carts at a cost of $10,000 each.

MOVABLE DESIGN? The obelisk-like monument dominating Salisbury's Downtown Plaza would be moved off the shopping promenade under a plan proposed by area resident James Agnew. (Times Photo By Craig Shearman)

Plan On Moving Plaza Sculpture Is 'Monumental'

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

12/8/85

SALISBURY — The 30-foot-tall monument to Fred P. Adkins which dominates this city's Downtown Plaza has drawn everything from heated criticism to admiration since being dedicated April 3, 1970.

Many residents, particularly merchants whose storefronts face the plaza, have said the obelisk-like structure appears out of place — a shiny, modernistic aluminum sculpture smack in the center of an old-fashioned thoroughfare with a turn-of-the-century look.

James Agnew, a retired Coca-Cola Bottling Co. employee and a man with a penchant for building designs, has come up with a plan for the sculpture — move it to a strip of land bordered by Broad Street, N. Division Street and Route 50.

"I'VE BEEN TO a lot of merchants and they all approved of it (the design)," Agnew said. "The monument shouldn't be on the plaza and they (the merchants) don't want it there."

Agnew said the structure, in its present location, is "jammed up too much" is not visible enough, and would be more "out in the open" on the site he has proposed. His plans include levelling the ground at the proposed site, and surrounding the monument with a fountain, benches, and walking area.

"I think he (Agnew) has presented us with a terrific plan," said Irvin Kamanitz, owner of Central Drug on the plaza. "It would look so much better where he has planned it. It has to have the right setting, and it doesn't on the plaza. It's too small and crowded and it doesn't show up."

(See PLAZA, page C22)

PLAZA

(Continued from page 1)

"I THINK THE monument is good looking — it's just out of place on the plaza," said Glen Malone, a buyer for Vernon Powell, also on the plaza. "It's too modern for the plaza, which is trying to look historical."

Agnew said he plans to take the design before the city council for their approval in the near future.

He said the project, if approved, should not cost the city any money because he plans to solicit donations for materials and labor.

Mayor W. Paul Martin said he had no opinion on whether the monument should stay on the plaza. "There should be a lot of discussion before any decisions are made," Martin said. "We're going to get pros and cons."

"I DON'T THINK anybody ought to move it arbitrarily because it's a memorial to a community leader of years past," said Salisbury Downtown Revitalization Office Director Pete Cooper, who was a member of the committee which planned the monument for the plaza. "I don't think it does all that much damage to downtown."

Agnew has designed and constructed other architectural structures which can presently be seen in Salisbury, including several church steeples and the war memorial monument on Route 13.

He did not work on the Adkins monument. That was designed by a sculptor named Alfredo Hlegua at the request of a committee formed of city officials and friends and family members of Fred Adkins, a former business, political and community leader.

Contest Eyed For West Side

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

12/15/85

SALISBURY — A group of local business and community leaders, the R/UDAT Action Group which is involved in planning this city's revitalization, has proposed a contest to find the best idea on what to do with the west side.

The contest will be held locally and will be split into two groups — professionals, such as architects, engineers and commercial designers, and private citizens — each of which will compete among themselves, said John Van Fossen, a local architect and the chairman of the competition.

A TOTAL OF $2,000 in prize money will be split between the winners of each group, Van Fossen said.

The west side, a region located between Route 50 and the Wicomico River and Route 13 and Parsons Road, has long been criticized the area as being dilapidated.

However, residents living in the west side have opposed previous city plans to renovate the west side, and Van Fossen said the contest will give these citizens the chance to have some input into the development of the area.

Van Fossen referred to a recent plan by the city council to tear down some housing on Germania Circle, located in the west side, and to relocate those living there into new housing in order to build a parking lot as part of the its overall $45 downtown revitalization project currently underway.

ALTHOUGH THE plan eventually fell through when the city did not receive HUD block grant money for funding, it drew heated opposition from residents of the west side, who claimed they were not informed of the proposal by city officials.

Van Fossen said the contest will not be held until sometime after the first of the year so that RAG can first find out the status of the Industrial Revenue Bonds granted Fox Ltd. Partnership, the developer of the city's revitalization project.

Merchants And Planners Debate Plaza Re-Opening

12/10/85

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The issue of whether to re-open this city's Downtown Plaza to vehicle traffic drew mixed reactions Monday at a debate on the subject held by the Greater Salisbury Committee.

A proponent of re-opening the plaza, William Ahtes, owner of two major retail outlets on the plaza — Gunby's Galleria and the City Center — initiated the debate, which followed a month of heated discussion on the issue by local businessmen and government officials.

Cathy Coleman, a representative of the Downtown Norfolk Development Corporation (DNDC) in Norfolk, Va., spoke in favor of the plaza being reverted back to a thoroughfare open to vehicles.

SHE TOLD OF a similar situation occuring in Norfolk where the DNDC is trying to have a pedestrian mall re-opened to traffic for a trial period. The Norfolk City Council, she said, is expected to approve that proposal Dec. 17.

Coleman also compared downtown retail districts such as Salisbury's Downtown Plaza to "suburban centers" like shopping malls, noting downtown retailers should "look at what makes suburban shopping areas work," to be successful.

Ironically, many downtown pedestrian malls were closed to vehicular traffic in order to compete with malls and shopping centers.

Coleman said downtown retailers are now realizing they still cannot compete, and have been losing business due to a lack of accessability which the malls enjoy. That accessability could be heightened, she said, by opening the plaza to vehicles.

JOHN VAN FOSSEN, a partner of Somers and Van Fossen archtects, argued against the transition, saying that allowing vehicles on the plaza would be "throwing away (the city's) assets," since the strip would change in appearance by losing some of its fountains, trees and benches.

"The plaza now is an amenity," Van Fossen said. "For downtown to be successful, it has to be unique, offer something the malls don't offer. If you open the plaza to traffic, you'll have to destroy some of that amenity."

Ahtes said his next step will be to ask the Downtown Merchants Association to try to persuade the Central City District Commission to request the city council to open the plaza as a one-way street for a trial period of 90 days.

His proposal has been met with praise and criticism, the latter of which has been given by Mayor W. Paul Martin, who said Monday he still had not changed his opinion that the plaza should remain a pedestrian mall.

Trucks Banned From Plaza

New Salisbury Policy Upsets Downtown Merhant

12/14/85

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Effective Monday, delivery trucks will no longer be allowed on the Downtown Plaza because of a new city policy, a decision that has upset at least one merchant.

The policy was adopted this week, primarily for safety reasons, said Maj. Vance Pusey of the Salisbury Police Department.

Police are concerned about the safety of pedestrians walking the plaza, and want to keep the thoroughfare open for fire trucks and police cars in case of emergency, he said.

Pusey said the police also want to protect the planters, fountains and roadway of the plaza, which he said are sometimes damaged by delivery trucks driving on the pedestrian mall.

PUSEY SAID THE CHANGE will be "in line" with a new shuttle system, expected to start in April, in which motorized carts will drop off pedestrians at stores along the plaza. "The shuttle service will have to get through on a daily basis, and with trucks, they cannot get through," he said.

The new policy was instituted the day after the city police department was given the authority to issue permits for plaza parking under a resolution passed by the city coucil at its meeting Dec. 9.

Prior to the council's action, that authority was delegated to the city's public works department, while the police were in charge only of enforcing the laws governing parking on the plaza.

According to the new policy, permits will allow vehicles to load and unload only. Delivery trucks will not be allowed on the mall at all. No other parking will be permitted, the policy states, and permits will be issued for a maximum period of one month.

(See PLAZA, page 3)

THE POLICY ALSO states that the loading process will be required to be done in 20 minutes or less, and if anything on the plaza is damaged, the permit holder will be held responsible.

Violators of the policy will face either a $10 fine or will receive a summons for failing to obey local traffic devices.

Faye Berger, owner of Berger's, expressed anger at the change in policy when police refused to allow a United Parcel Service truck on the plaza to deliver goods to her business Tuesday.

"What else are they going to do to the business people on the plaza?" Berger said. "It's bad enough nobody is shopping on the plaza now. This is going to hurt business even further. They (delivery services) are not going to bother delivering to us anymore, and I'll be the one to lose."

BERGER SAID HER store is one of a few on the plaza which does not have a back entrance, and therefore, must receive deliveries at the plaza entrance. "These delivery trucks don't need one or two stores," Berger said.

She said if the policy stays in effect, and if the plaza is not opened up soon to vehicular traffic by January, she is going to close her store.

Berger is one of several merchants on the plaza who say they want the pedestrian mall to be opened up to vehicular traffic to help stimulate business, which they say is lagging due to a lack of accessibility.

There Are No Easy Solutions

Editor Of The Times:

The Plaza in Downtown Salisbury is under attack (*The Daily Times*, Sunday, Nov. 3, 1985). Some are suggesting that this attractive pedestriaan enclave be reopened to automobile traffic and that the resulting increased accessibility and visibility will produce an immediate boost in business.

There is no evidence to support this claim; it is pure speculation and wishful thinking.

Those who propose to return traffic to the Plaza are looking for a "quick fix" to a very complex multifaceted problem. The Plaza itself was another decade's "quick fix" to similar complex problems. It should be apparent to all involved in the operation of Downtown that there are no easy solutions. Hard work, organization, and cooperation among all parties involved is the only way for Downtown to take advantage of its tremendous potential as the heart of our community.

One key to Downtown's survival as a retail center is through offering a unique alternative to the malls and the strip shopping centers. One element which goes a long way toward providing that uniqueness is the existing pedestrian plaza. It is such a fantastic asset that we should accept it as a given and build upon it — not shortsightedly propose to destroy it.

And let's not be fooled by the innocence of the current proposal. When the one-way traffic plan is found to be ineffective the next step will be to eliminate the landscaping and replace it with parking.

Then the Plaza will be gone and we will have just another strip shopping center; one that is less convenient that those we already have. And we already have more that the area can support.

But where do we go from here? Do we just sit back and say "The Plaza is beautiful; who cares if all the businesses on it fail?" Of course we don't! We must first ask a lot of questions: What retail role should Downtown be playing? Who are the potential customers? What business hours would best serve these customers?

What other businesses should be Downtown and how can they be encouraged to locate there? How can we solve the myriad of problems related to parking? What is government's role in promoting downtown? What private gorups should be spearheading the downtown effort?...etc., etc., etc.

After identifying the questions we must search for creative and innovatve answers, not destructive and counterproductive "quick fix" answers can be implemented. Only then can this community have the Downton that is has repeatedly indicated that it wants.

John R. Van Fossen Jr.
Salisbury

Van Fossen is with Somers & Van Fossen Architects-Ed.

Cold Weather Precautions

Advertiser
12/11/85

Cold weather is on its way. During past winters, very cold temperatures and winds caused hundreds of frozen pipes in citizens' homes and business establishments. All of these were probably avoidable if the owners or occupants had taken reasonable precautions.

As a public service, the Public Works Department of the City of Salisbury suggests several precautions that will prevent frozen pipes during the winter:

1) Close in open crawl spaces and under porch areas where pipes are exposed. This will protect the pipes from cold winds.

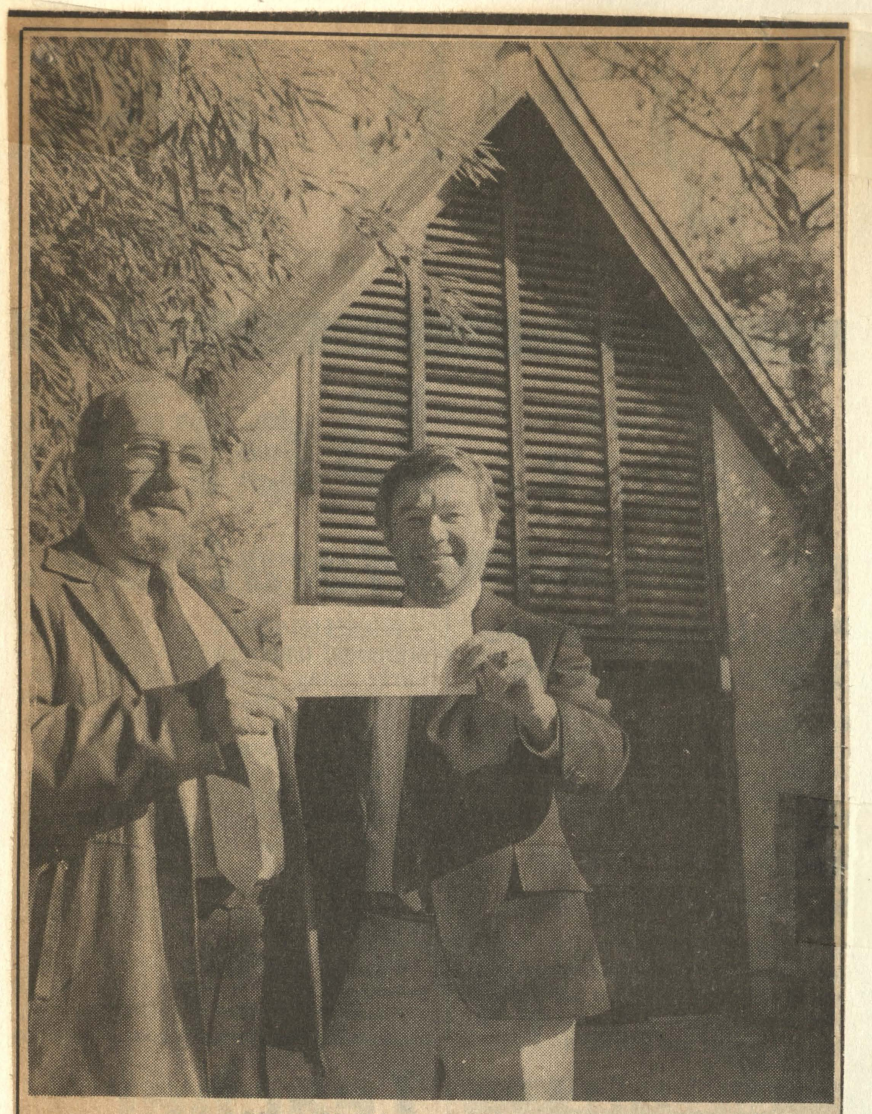
2) Insulate pipes in areas likely to go below the freezing temperatures.

3) Allow a tap to trickle during very cold weather, especially at night when there is no water flow in the building for many hours. Moving water is not likely to freeze and the cost to run a trickle is minor.

4) If building is vacant, call the Water Department for prompt turn-off and then drain the system.

If pipes burst, shut of the main valve right away in order to prevent costly wastage of water. If the main valve cannot be located, call the Water Department at 548-3115 or Public Works Department at 548-3177.

Many residents and businesses that have pipes which have burst may receive excessive water and sewer bills. Upon application to the Public Works Department at 548-3170 an adjustment of the sewer bill will be inititated only upon presentation of sufficient evidence that the high bill resulted from burst pipes caused by freezing.



Building Money 12/20/85

Dick Hazel, left, of the Pepsi Cola Bottling Co. in Salisbury, and Roland R. Leimann, chairman of the Salisbury Zoo Commission hold a check for $15,000. The money, donated by the company, will be used to convert a service barn at the Salisbury zoo, in background, to be known as the William E. Morgan Education Center. The recent presentation ceremony was held at the zoo. (Times Photo)

Winter Play

Children from Salisbury's Newton Street-Camden Avenue neighborhood on Wednesday enjoy their new playground which is near completion. Neighbors in the area worked with city officials for the past four years to make the park, called the Newton-Camden Tot Lot, a reality. (Times Photo By Michele Dietz)

Council Studies Pier Competition

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The Wicomico County Council is considering having a pier constructed between its two boat ramps in the Wicomico River off Riverside Drive, but the question has been raised as to whether it would be competitive with Salisbury's new marina.

Construction of the pier was proposed by county public works director Delbert Davis at Tuesday's council meeting.

Council members, however, became concerned that the pier might be in competition with the city's new marina, which is across the river about 500 feet away, and instructed Davis to talk to city officials to get their input before the project gets underway.

Davis said the pier could possibly become competitive with the marina because docking there would be free of charge to boaters, while the city, he said, will charge a fee.

ACCORDING TO Davis, the pier and an adjoining walkway are needed because the county-owned ramps are starting to become overcrowded.

He proposes that the pier will be used for boaters who wish to dock, load or unload materials, or just "park" long enough to get off their boats to take a stroll — purposes for which they are now using the ramps, and thus, getting in the way of those trying to launch their boats.

The pier also is needed, he said, because boats often cannot pull up the ramps because of the shallow water surrounding the bulkheading there.

Dredging around the bulkheading has been proposed in the past, but Davis said the Department of Natural Resources will not allow it since it could harm the natural habitat of the waters, especially spawning fish.

SINCE THE shallow water prevents large vessels from docking at the ramps, Davis said the possibility of competition with the marina would only concern smaller boats.

Maryland's Department of Natural Resources has already appropriated $25,000 to the county for the pier, Davis said. However, he said he still needs to obtain permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Davis said he expects the Corps' approval in the near future and that the project should get underway this summer, if the city is not opposed.

"If there's competition, we'll drop it," he said.

Four Open Space Projects Planned

SALISBURY — The Salisbury city council Monday approved four projects for which they plan to apply for approximately $77,000 in state Program Open Space funds for fiscal year 1987.

Two of the projects, recommended by Pete Cooper, director of the city's downtown revitalization office, were the landscaping of city-owned park land along the east side of the Wicomico River which would tie the city's Riverwalk with newly acquired land at Royute 13 and East Market Streets, and construction an extension of the Riverwalk from the city's new marina to West maiun Street. 1/28/86

Council Approves Annexation Plan 1/14/86

SALISBURY — The city council Monday approved the annexation of property to the city to be used by Lowe's of Salisbury Inc., a lumber and building supply company here on Old Ocean City Road.

The 3½-acre parcel of land is located immediately east of Lowe's existing store and will be used for the company for expansion purposes, said city planning director William Livingston.

Parking Problems May Delay Project

SALISBURY — City officials met with Robert A. Fox, the developer of the city's proposed Riverfronts revitalization project, Wednesday to discuss problems with parking which may delay the project.

City executive secretary Patrick J. Fennell said the city "lost" 50 parking spaces for various reasons, including the fact that the space was needed for the marina parking, for a dockmaster's facility and for landscaping.

Fennell said the city must "find out where to make up" the parking spaces because they are needed by Fox for the project. He said he is uncertain whether the city will have to purchase more land as a result.

He also said Fox has still not obtained financing necessary for the project. 1/30/86

Riverfront Fund Delay Queried

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

12/15/85

SALISBURY — Some city officials are uncertain — and some actually in doubt — that the developer of the city's proposed downtown riverfront revitalizion can acquire the necessary financing for the project by a city-imposed Dec. 31 deadline.

Patrick J. Fennell, city executive secretary, said last week that if Robert A. Fox, of Fox Ltd. Partnership in Columbia, Md., the developer who won the bid for construction, cannot get financing by the end of the year, the mayor and city council will have to decide drop his firm from the project.

However, Fennell said he was "confident" Fox would gain the financing in time.

THE COUNCIL SET set the deadline for Fox to obtain funding for the project by selling Industrial Revenue Bonds which were approved by the city, to a financial lender. The deadline has been twice extended already.

Fox is required by an agreement he made with the city to obtain initial financing of $5.6 million for the first phase of the seven-phase project, which will include a new marina and two malls, one to resemble Harborplace in Baltimore and the other, Fanuiel Hall in Boston.

The entire project is estimated to cost a total of $45 million, according to Mayor W. Paul Martin.

Fox said this week that he has two institutions lined up to buy the IRB's, and hopes to close on a financial settlement Dec. 20. He refused to reveal the names of those lenders.

HE ALSO SAID he plans to break ground in March, and said he has received commitments for a restaurant and several retail stores to fill the proposed malls, although he would not disclose any names.

Fox said the deadline for selling the IRB's is also Dec. 31 under Internal Revenue Service regulations. He said the IRB's would be the best method to finance the project because of tax advantages associated with it.

If he cannot sell the IRB's by the deadline, Fox said he hopes to receive "conventional financing," or a bank construction loan. He said no one from the city has indicated to him that he will be dropped from the project if he does not sell his IRB's.

FENNELL SAID THAT if Fox does not meet his deadline for selling the IRB's, the council would have the alternative of allowing him to seek conventional financing. However, Fennell said he was "confident" Fox would sell the IRB's by the end of the year.

A group of local business and community leaders has proposed a contest to determine the best ideas for revitalizing Salisbury's west side. Story on page A3.

Martin, however, said he is impatient to begin the project. He said he is uncertain at this time what route the city will take next year.

"If Fox can't get financing (by the deadline), it's a whole new ballgame," Martin said. "Then we'll step back and see what direction we'll take — whether we'll work out a new or modified plan (or) divide it and break it up in pieces."

City councilwoman Martha Graham said she has doubts Fox will be able to get financing by the end of the year, and that the council is split on their beliefs of whether Fox will meet his deadline.

"THE CITY HAS BEEN put off a long time on developing the west side based on his promises," she said. "I don't think he'll come through."

The project still should not face any setbacks if Fox does not come through, however, Graham said. "I think it will just be different," she said. "I sense we'll get a definite direction with the new year. Either this man will produce or we'll get on with it.

"We may have to regroup and take on the whole task ourselves," she added. "Or we may have to look for other developers."

Martin said Fox is not wholly at fault for keeping the city in suspense as to whether or not he will receive IRB financing.

The only bidder in the running, Fox was awarded the bid for construction of the project on April 29, at which time he signed an agreement with the city which authorized him to seek $5.6 million in financing and begin developing the first phase.

FOX SAID HE then signed a contract with Sharon Savings & Loan in which they agreed to buy the IRB's to fund the project. However, that agreement fell through in the wake of the savings and loan crisis the state faced in May.

Martin also said the city has had some difficulty over the past three years acquiring land for the project.

Presently the city must still negotiate the purchase of three parcels of land located in the perimeters of the area to be used for phase one.

"It took much longer than we thought to get the properties," Martin said. "Fox couldn't go out and get financing for a project to be located on property he didn't own."

Fennell explained that Fox needed to have most of the land acquired and some commitments from those wishing to lease space from him in order to convince financial backers of the credibility of the project.

"We can't blame it all on Fox," Martin said.

Fox Is Denied On Loan

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

1/28/86

SALISBURY — Robert A. Fox, the developer of this city's proposed $45 million Riverfront revitalization, again has failed to obtain financing for the project.

In a letter sent Monday to city executive secretary Patrick J. Fennell, Fulton P. Jeffers, the developer's attorney said Fox "was quite surprised" to receive word from General Electric Credit Corp. that they are not willing to approve his application for construction funding for the project.

Fennell said less than a month ago he was confident Fox would soon obtain financing and that an application Fox had made would be approved.

However, Jeffers said in the letter that the financing fell through despite the fact that a local agent of General Electric had been "very optimistic" concerning the project. "Unfortunately, top management did not share this enthusiasm concerning the potential of Salisbury," said Jeffers.

MEANWHILE, Jeffers said Fox plans to begin "working intently with a variety of interested parties" trying to line up tenants for the proposed revitalization to show possible lenders the project's economic viability.

Under a leasing program, Jeffers said Fox will attempt to get leases signed by interested tenants to gain the confidence of prospective lenders and establish to their satisfaction "the ability of the project to attract meaningful long-term tenants."

"For a major lender, Salisbury is not the same known item as the larger metropolitan areas, and therefore, perhaps, we have a slightly greater 'selling job' concerning the potential of this community and this project," Jeffers said.

Bids To Go Out On City Property

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council unanimously voted Monday to place a parcel of land located within the city's urban renewal district up for bid in light of a request made by local attorney John Nason, who wishes to use the land to construct a new building for his law firm.

Nason made his request in light of a "gift" he made to the city of the option to buy the G & K Warehouse, a key property within the Riverfronts project's limits, for $165,000.

The property, which is located on Market Street within the limits of the city's planned Riverfronts revitalization project, had been set aside with program open space funds.

Fox Gets Building Option

1/14/86

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The city council has turned over an option to buy the G&K warehouse here to the developer of the city's Riverfronts revitalization project, Robert A. Fox, who said he will purchase the building within the next three months.

Meanwhile, city executive secretary Patrick Fennell said that Fox has applied for financing for the first phase of the seven-phase project from a lending institution and said he expects Fox will obtain that financing within the next month.

Fennell announced at Monday's council meeting that Fox offered to temporarily give the city $10,000 for the option to buy the G&K building "in good faith" that he will exercise it within the next 90 days.

Fox plans to include the three-story warehouse in phase two of the project by renovating it into an office building with possible retail space on the first floor, according to Fennell. The second phase of the overall $45 million project also includes plans for a hotel, Fennell said.

Under the option, the G&K building can be purchased from its owners for $155,000, said Fennell. The option was given for free to the city Dec. 23 as a "gift" by local attorney John Nason, who purchased it about 18 months ago for $10,000.

Although the council did not wish to exercise the option, which expired Jan. 10, it did plan to incorporate the property into the revitalization project, said Fennell.

"We were concerned we would lose it and have to start all over again," he said.

Fennell said the council decided not to buy the building because it was not ready, according to its proposed timetable for the project, to borrow money for the purchase ahead of schedule.

That schedule, he said, is already three months behind due to problems Fox incurred in trying to obtain the $5.6 million in financing for phase one of the project through Industrial Revenue Bonds.

Fox is now seeking conventional financing for the project, Fennell said.

Salisbury To Sell Downtown Property

Development Planned For Open Space Parcel

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council voted unanimously Monday night to pass a resolution which will put a vacant parcel of land within the city's central business district up for bid so it may be developed.

The 8,300-square-foot property, located on Market Street across the Wicomico River from the Sheraton hotel, was formerly set aside by Maryland Program Open Space funds for use as open space.

However, according to Director of Public Works Thomas Plotts, the city has received several requests by local developers to have the land declared "surplus," or to put it up for sale so that it may be developed.

According to the resolution, the council decided there is a need for more business and private development in the city's central business district, and that such development would fit in with the city's Riverfront revitalization project currently being planned for downtown Salisbury.

Plotts said although the council's purpose behind putting the property up for bid was not to make a profit, the sale would raise the city's tax base.

AT THE request of the council, Plotts did a study on the property within the last two weeks to see if it could be developed, and whether a proposed stormwater drainage pipe needed for the area, which was to be located beneath the property, could be constructed elsewhere.

Plotts recommended Monday that although it would be slightly more expensive, the pipe could be located beneath a parking lot adjacent to the property. He said the sale of the property and subsequent increase in the tax base would offset the cost of tearing up the parking lot for the pipe.

The council's action Monday came in the wake of a request to declare the property surplus made by local attorney John Nason, who said in a letter to the council dated Jan. 20 that his law firm would like to construct a new office building on the property in question.

Nason said his request was being made in light of a "gift" he recently made to the city of an option to buy the G&K building, a vacant warehouse located within the area designated for the proposed Riverfronts project.

UNDER THE option, the city could buy the building and the land on which it sits for $165,000, a price much lower than what it would normally pay if the property was up for sale, according to city officials.

The council recently handed over the option to buy to the developer of the Riverfronts project, Robert A. Fox of Fox Limited Partnership in Columbia, Md., who agreed to purchase the property.

Under Fox's current plans, the building will be renovated into offices, according to Mayor W. Paul Martin.

2/11/86

Against Developing City's Riverfront

Editor Of The Times: 3/2/86

I have just read another article in *The Daily Times* on the riverfront project in Salisbury. Does it make sense that we are going to spend $45 million on this project when in the same article it tells us that the city is preparing for anticipated cuts.

There is a crying need for more housing, the streets need repairing, the courthouse is falling apart (from reports) — and they are going to spend that kind of money for the Riverfront Project — that will not be used now or in the future.

I admit that my circle of acquaintances is not that large but everyone that I have talked to thinks that it is a ridiculous idea.

Have you driven down Riverside Drive and looked in that direction? Do you think that anyone is going over there to shop much less use a hotel in that area? Who is the marina with restrooms and showers going to be for? Are they planning on around the clock surveillance? Where are the 55 boats coming from? Has there been a survey done on this?

Remember Route 50 had to be through town so we would get the business down there? It took a while to realize that it was not going to happen.

So now we need a new route around Salisbury. Then we revitalized the downtown, made a mini mall — it is beautiful but it takes more than that to get poeple to shop there. It's so much easier to go to the Mall where the parking is free and there are more shops to choose from. I have noticed that since Christmas three more shops have closed business. Where are the shops planned for the Riverfront going to get the business?

No wonder that Mr. Fox cannot get financing — someone must have looked into the project and seen it for what it is worth.

I am a little tired of reading that this is "government" money that is going to be used. As far as I know the government money is from us — the taxpayers — and I for one do not want my tax dollars going for this project.

Blanche Strandquist
Salisbury

Cooper Defends Waterfront Plan

Editor Of The Times:

This note is in response to a Letter to the Editor from Blanche Strandquist, published in Sunday's *Daily Times* (March 2, 1986) relative to the planned development of Salisbury's waterfront.

Under the present agreement between the city and Mr. Fox, the developer will raise private funds and fully develop the project at an estimated cost of $45 million. This would remove presently blighted areas on the westside and replace them with a market, marina, restaurants and shops in a manner similar to but smaller than the Waterside development in Norfolk, Va. A hotel and units would also be built on Riverside Drive and West Market Street waterfront locations.

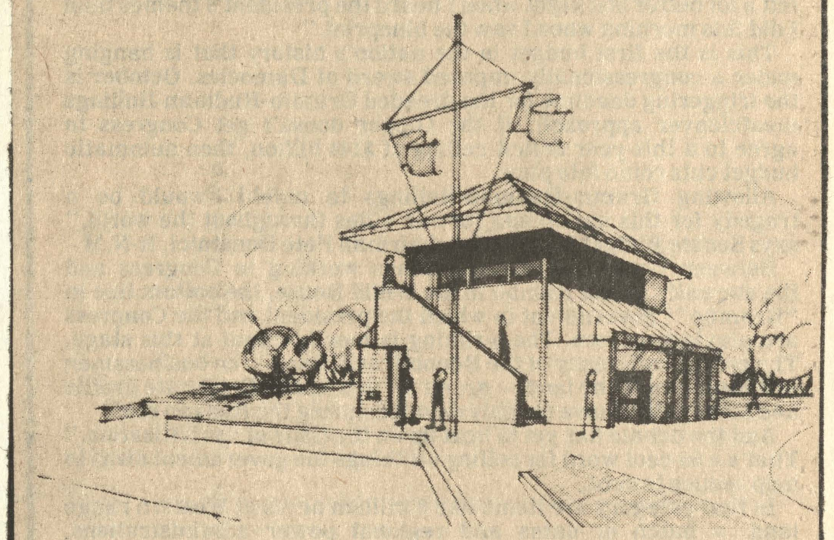
We see the major benefits to the city as removal of blight, creation of a major new tax base for both the city and county, provision of many new jobs and development of a new and exciting waterfront for our city.

The marina is presently being built by the city.

At the present time, we expect to be ready to receive boats by May 1, 1986 with a formal dedication scheduled for June 21 & 22, 1986.

Philip C. Cooper
Salisbury

Cooper is manager of the Downtown Revitalization Office — Ed.



Soon To Come

Construction bids for the second of two phases of Salisbury's new marina are scheduled to be opened Feb. 18. The project will include a marina office building, shown above; a parking lot, utilities, a fuel dock, landscaping and lighting. The office building will include restrooms, showers and laundry facilities on the first floor and a harbormaster's office and living quarters on the second. Construction is expected to begin late this winter and end this summer in time for the boating season, according to city public works director Thomas Plotts.

2/11/86

Larry Alpaugh photo

The G & K Warehouse building, on the banks of the Wicomico River is now scheduled to become a part of the downtown development plan.

1/22/86

Finance OK On Riverfront Is Expected

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

1/5/86

SALISBURY — The city could receive proof early this week of a financial committment from developer Robert A. Fox for the first phase of the downtown riverfronts project, according to city executive secretary Patrick J. Fennell.

The start of construction of the seven-phase, $45 million revitalization project, already more than three months behind schedule, depends on Fox receiving the required financing, Fennell said late last week.

Meanwhile, the city has acquired all of the land for the first part of phase one of the project, which, according to preliminary plans, will include the city's marina and two restaurant/retail malls resembling Baltimore's Harborplace and Boston's Fanuiel Hall.

BUT FENNELL SAID the city still must purchase ten parcels of land in the total project area, three of which area located in an area designated for "phase 1b," proposed to be a produce/retail market.

Fennell said that according to the city's charter, the city has such condemnation rights on land designated as an "urban renewal area" and that the land within the riverfronts project was created as such an area in September, 1984.

One of those parcels, owned by the Tabernacle of Prayer, currently is under negotiation.

According to an agreement between the city and Fox signed April 29, the city can either sell or lease Fox the land it purchases for the project, and Fox will own the entire project except for the marina, which is owned by the city.

Under the agreement, the city has the right to condemn property which an owner will not sell at or below an "acceptable acquisition price." Fennell said that according to the city's charter, the city has such condemnation rights on land designated as an "urban renewal area" and that the land within the riverfronts project was created as such an area in September, 1984.

UNDER THE AGREEMENT, Fox legally would have until 120 days after the city completes its new marina to produce a financial plan for phase 1a of the seven-phase project, Fennell said. The marina is expected to open to boaters for docking in mid-April, and a grand opening is planned for June 21, he said.

However, Fennell said that according to an "informal schedule," set up by the city, Fox was expected to obtain $5.6 million in financing for phase one through Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRBs) by Dec. 31, 1985, a deadline which was extended twice before.

WHEN SALISBURY city council members realized in late December that the IRBs would not be obtained by the Dec. 31 deadline, they requested that Fox submit to them a letter stating his plans to obtain financing, Fennell said.

At the time, some council members and Mayor W. Paul Martin expressed doubts as to whether Fox would come up with financing for the project and whether he would be kept on as developer if financing was not obtained by the Dec. 31 deadline.

Cleaning Up

Salisbury city employees Wilbert David King Sr., left, Troy Morris, center, and Quinton Joyner on Wednesday clear the last of the debris left from buildings torn down as part of the revitalization project at the boat dock on West Main Street in Salisbury. (Times Photo by Larry Alpaugh)

3/20/86

Obelisk On Plaza To Be Relocated

2/25/86

By MICHELE DIETZ
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday night supported plans of James Agnew to move the Adkins Memorial, an obelisk-like monument, from its present spot on the Downtown Plaza to a new location off Route 50.

Council President Norman Conway said the council approved of the concept of Agnew's plans, and instructed city director of public works Thomas Plotts to work with Agnew on the project.

Agnew proposes to have the monument moved to a now vacant grass lot bordered by Broad Street, Route 50 and N. Division Street.

He said he decided to design a new place to put the monument after he talked to merchants on the plaza who thought the structure should be removed from its present location. He said he also feels the monument is hidden from the public in its present spot, and would be better seen off Route 50.

Agnew presented designs to the council which showed how he would beautify the area by placing flower beds, fountains, benches and a sun dial around the obelisk in its location.

A RETIRED employee of Coca Cola Bottling Company in Salisbury, Agnew, 77, has pursued architecture as a hobby, and has designed several structures in the city, including the War Memorial obelisk off Route 13 North and several church steeples.

He said he wants the project to be a "community" one, in which most of the materials and work would be donated or volunteered, so that it would cost the city virtually nothing. He said he would donate one of the fountains for the project.

Agnew said he has already received several commitments for donations and volunteer help. He said he did not know at this time what the total pricetag of the project would be.

The land off Route 50 where the monument would be placed is owned by the state and would not have to be purchased by the city, Agnew said. Mayor W. Paul Martin also said he has talked to state highway officials and has already received their approval of the project.

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A16 Salisbury, Md. Sun. Mar. 2, 1986

New Home For The Memorial

The Adkins Memorial on the Downtown Plaza generated mild controversy when it was installed.

The shape of the metal obelisk puzzled some people and others wondered about the placement.

The Salisbury City Council last week supported a proposal to move the memorial to a location off Route 50. Salisbury resident James Agnew, whose hobby is architecture, would like to to move the memorial to a vacant grass lot bordered by Broad Street, Route 50 and North Division Street.

Agnew said he had talked to merchants on the plaza who thought the obelisk should be moved. More importantly, the monument is almost hidden and few people, other than plaza shoppers, see it.

Agnew — who has designed several structures in the city, including the War Memorial off Route 13 North — would like to beautify the proposed location by placing flower beds, fountains, benches and a sun dial around the Adkins Memorial.

The best part of Agnew's plan is that he wants it to be a community project, in which most of the materials and work would be donated or volunteered so there would be no cost to the city. He would donate one of the fountains.

The proposed Route 50 location is owned by the state and would not have to be purchased by the city. State highway officials have approved the project.

The Adkins Memorial is an interesting structure but it does not fit in with the design of the Downtown Plaza. It should be relocated to a more appropriate location where it can be seen.

Adkins Memorial To Remain On Plaza

7/16/85

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — A resident presented plans to the Salisbury City Council Monday to move the Salisbury Obelisk to Route 50 as part of a new Vietnam veterans memorial, but a review of the history behind the obelisk honoring Fred P. Adkins convinced the council to leave the memorial on the Downtown Plaza.

Council members were moved by the presentation of former Fred P. Adkins Committee members to permit the obelisk to remain in its current location despite resident James Agnew's efforts to move it to Route 50 as part of a peace memorial to Vietnam veterans.

Agnew said more people would see the obelisk on the Route 50 island at Broad Street as they traveled through Salisbury than at its current home. He presented plans for a "peace triangle" that would include the obelisk, adding, that he had already begun collecting donations for project.

John Broyhill, president of the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce when the committee was established in 1966, said a veterans memorial was not unfavorable to him but felt the relocation of the memorial was inappropriate in consideration of its history and the man it honors.

BROYHILL EXPLAINED that the 16-year-old memorial was first suggested to honor Adkins for his civic leadership and as the first Chamber president in 1920. He recounted Adkins' contributions to the community as the organizer and first president of the Wicomico Hotel Corporation, establishing *The Daily Times* with his two brothers and organizing Chesapeake Airway Inc. in addition to serving as a county commissioner, state tax commissioner, Eastern Shore representative State Fuel Administration during World War I and in other civic organizations.

Broyhill said Adkins was honored because of his contribution to the community that grew from a small town into a city. He said the downtown plaza was chosen as the appropriate site for the obelisk in recognition not only of "Mr. Fred" but of the city's progress.

Another member of the committee, K. King Burnett, said the Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council was consulted about the design of the modern structure which fits well with the historic flavor of the downtown buildings because it is symbolic in its modernism yet traditional as a design dating back to ancient Egypt. He said the site was chosen as a centerpiece for the revitalization effort as well as a cultural statement about the city.

Burnett said the obelisk, created by sculptor Alfredo Halegua, was designed to be pedestrian-oriented. A combination of aluminum and steel set in a reflecting pool to create different images from different angles, Burnett said the obelisk would only appear as a needle to Route 50 travelers seeing it from a distance.

"THAT WAS very to the point," council member Martha Graham said when Burnett and Broyhill finished their presentation. She said many people are not aware of the obelisk's history and said she appreciated the two men coming forward with their presentation.

Graham said the monument is no longer contempory but is as much a part of the city's history as the facades of the downtown buildings dating back to the late 1800s. She said the design not only reflects the personality of Adkins but also reflects Salisbury, adding, "people need to know why it is there."

Accompanying Agnew before the council, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 194 member C. H. Grant said he was in favor of the relocation because Agnew's plans would expeditiously ring about a veteran's memorial. Council member Robert Powell said the veterans' memorial could still be planned and other council members agreed that the Route 50 site was appropriate.

Council President Norman Conway said that in fairness to Agnew, it should be known that the resident simply wished that more people would be able to view the obelisk.

Monumental

F.P. Adkins Memorial To Stay on Plaza

At the regular meeting of the Salisbury City Council on Monday, July 14, the Council turned down James. K. Agnew's request that the city remove the Fred P. Adkins memorial obelisk from Salisbury's downtown plaza. The obelisk was to become the centerpiece of a planned war memorial garden . The garden, which was designed by Mr. Agnew, is planned for the island between Broad Street and Route 50, east of North Division Street. The memorial will serve to commemorate the soldiers who fell in Vietnam and Korean.

The Council seemed to base its decision on the testimony offered by two citizens who were involved in the commission of sculptor Alfredo Halegua's untitled obelisk of aluminum and steel, Mr. John Broyhill and Mr. King Burnett.

Mr. Broyhill was president of the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce in 1966 when it formed a committee to honor Fred P. Adkins. Mr. Broyhill reminded the Council of Adkins' place in Salisbury history and the aptness of the honor accorded him. Broyhill implied that the monuments removal to the war memorial garden would alter or dilute its function of honoring Mr. Adkins.

Adkins was the founding president of the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce, organizer of Wicomico Hotel Building Project, Charter Member and past president of Salisbury Rotary Club. He "put Salisbury in the airline business" according to Mr. Broyhill, by starting Chesapeake Airways. He and his brothers established the *Salisbury Times* and he was involved in many local civic organizations.

Progressive Spirit

Mr. Broyhill concluded his remarks in support of leaving the obelisk at its current site, saying, "This community went through an era when we had a series of progressive men that made Salisbury different from communities (around us) . . . We enjoy the bene-

Staying Put

The Fred P. Adkins memorial obelisk was a point of interest at last week's City Council meeting. Some wanted to move it from its current location on the downtown plaza.

Continued from Page 1

nered wide support. He claims the backing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and others who have volunteered both money and manpower.

Planned are flower gardens, each of which will be maintained by different local garden clubs. The gardens are expected to contain two fountains, a sundial, and a large obelisk-like monument topped with an eternal flame. The monument will be flood lit at night.

Mr. Agnew retired after 42 years with the Coca-Cola Company, and by avocation, he is a community builder and architect. He is responsible for several area church steeples, as well as the concrete war monument on the northbound side of Route 13, by Priscila Street.

Suggestion For Adkins Memorial

Editor Of The Times: 8/3/86

Sometime ago Bill Robinson of the *Daily Times* suggested to the downtown merchants the removal of the Adkins memorial to a more appropriate place.

My idea to move the object to a site on Route 50 was approved by the Downtown merchants and passed by the city council.

Since that time two former members of the Fred P. Adkins committee objected to my suggestion.

Because many people are unaware of the reason for the memorial, I suggested a bronze tablet with Adkins picture and inscription on a block of granite on the Court House lawn like the ones in the Peninsula General Hospital Medical Center.

James K. Agnew
Salisbury

Council Approves Annexation Request

4/15/86

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved a request by G. Robert Miller to annex his property on the east side of Route 50 and three other properties between Boundary Street and the Miller property.

The council placed a cap of $45,000 on its participation in providing water and sewer services to the annexed property.

Councilman Robert Powell called the request a "tremendous opportunity" for the city to annex a valuable piece of property. William Livingston, Salisbury Wicomico Planning and Zoning office director said his staff will recommend Thursday the extension of Miller's special exception permit for a shopping center.

Salisbury To Get Taxi Stands

SALISBURY — Downtown shoppers now will enjoy the convenience of taxi stands following the Salisbury City Council's Monday approval of a request by Salisbury Taxi Service for the stands.

The stands will be located at opposite the J.C. Penney's department store and near Woolworths. All taxi companies in the city will be able to use the stands.

The mayor and council agreed that the taxi stands would be convenient for shoppers, particularly senior citizens.

Salisbury, Md. Tue., April 29, 1986

NEWS IN BRIEF

Council OKs Ad, Use Of Credit Cards

SALISBURY — The city's new riverfront marina, "Port of Salisbury," is moving toward completion, with the Salisbury City Council approving Monday an advertisement for boat slip rentals and the use of credit cards for the services offered.

According to the approved advertisement, boat slips will be available for dockage June 23, two days after the dedication services. The city approved signing an agreement with First National Bank of Maryland for the use of VISA, MasterCard and Choice credit cards at the marina which will require the city to pay 2½ percent of the monthly gross sales.

City executive secretary Patrick J. Fennell said the city has received a $100,000 state grant for completion of the dockmaster's facility but said the project may have to be rebid because of the subcontractor's increasing prices.

Fox Continues Plans For Westside Complex

1-1-86

By BARBARA AUDET
Staff Writer

Citing the recent savings and loan crisis as the reason for the delay, Developer Robert A. Fox has sent a letter to the Salisbury City Council reaffirming his intentions to proceed with the Riverfronts of Salisbury project.

Fox signed a commitment with the city last May to construct the project that will transform the Wicomico River bank into a complex similar to Baltimore's Harborplace and Boston's revised waterfront shopping and dining area.

The city had authorized the sale of Industrial Revenue Bonds to finance the project, which will now not be utilized. Instead, Fox has made clear his intent to go for conventional financing of the Riverfronts' complexes.

"I want to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on the progress which we are making with the Riverfronts of Salisbury. The holiday season has made it difficult for me to accomplish as much as I would have liked the last few weeks but I feel it is important for you, the mayor and the city council to be fully informed on the progress we are making," Fox stated.

He added that he was "disappointed that we were not able to finalize IRB financing in 1985. In essence, both of us wasted a lot of time and energy trying to achieve that. The reality of the financial marketplace and interest rates, however, have made conventional financing all the more acceptable and it is this route which I will now pursue."

Fox said that he had received in April, 1985, " a written commitment-application from a major lender for the project." He informed the City Council that this document is "being updated." He was hoping to have that new document available soon. "There is no reason that we should not be able to proceed on the schedule called for in the contract," Fox said. Construction drawings, he said, are also in progress and ought to be available for the city's consideration and final approval this spring, with construction starting as early as April.

"I already have the 'letter of intent' from an excellent tenant and continue to receive great interest in the project from other tenants of the caliber that we both want. Although I regret the delays caused by the unfortunate savings and loan crisis which substanially hampered me, I assure you of my ability to move forward with this project on the schedule we have established," Fox stated.

G & K Warehouse Option Offered

But John Nason, a local attorney and owner of two buildings downtown, said that he has his doubts that the project as envisioned by Fox, is going to become reality, echoing the thoughts of others in the business community who have wondered aloud why so little progress has been reported

Continued on Page 8

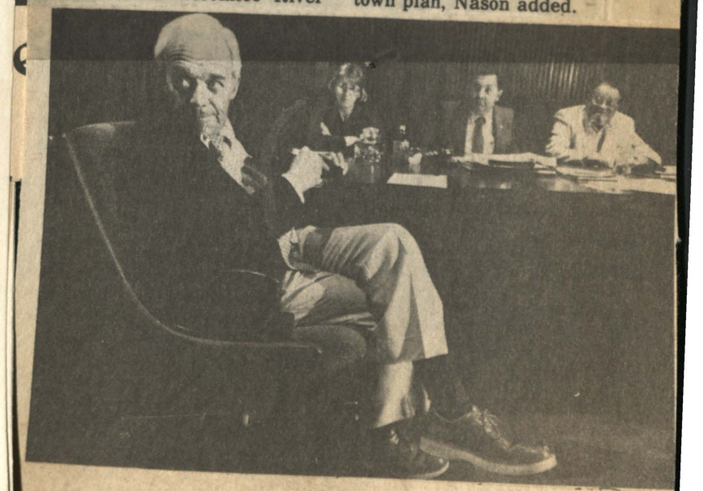
Fox

Continued from Page1

on the project.

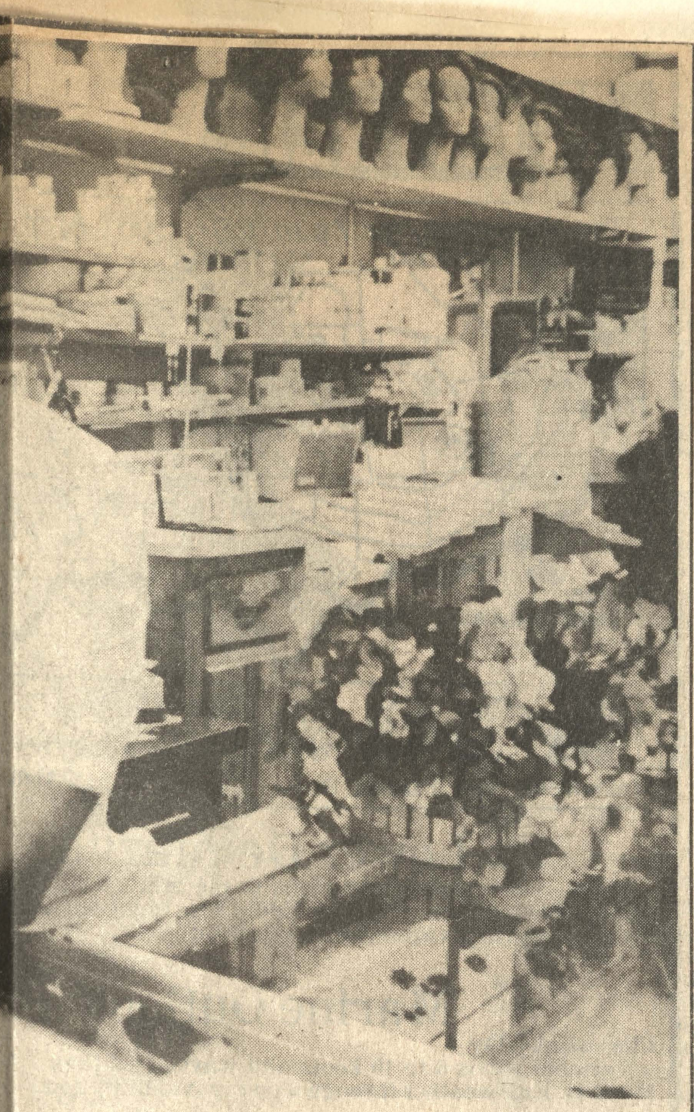
At the Dec. 23 meeting of the City Council, Nason offered the city, his and his colleagues "option-to-buy" a building known as the G & K warehouse, which is located on the Wicomico River across from the Downtown Plaza. The option-to-buy has a value, said Nason, of $10,000, which would be applied to the purchase price of $165,000 for the property. The option expires on Jan. 10.

"I hope the city can take advantage of this interesting old building, and make it a beautiful and integral part" of the entire downtown plan, Nason added.



Larry Alpaugh photo

Developer Robert Fox has reaffirmed his commitment to build Salisbury's "harbor" place, which was signed last May.



WAITING TO MOVE. Charles Jones, owner of Jones Hair Processing Center on West Main Street, is waiting to learn how and where the City of Salisbury will relocate his business as part of the West Side revitalization project. (Times Photo by Larry Alpaugh)

Revitalization Has Two Sides

Some Businessmen Face Uncertain Future

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Salisbury's riverfront revitalization program will mean an increased tax base for city residents and a revitalized business district, but to a handful of West Side businessmen it means relocation and an uncertain future.

The West Main Street and Lake Street area along the riverfront does not depict the bustling retail centers found on picture postcards trying to lure tourists. Instead, it is a neigborhood of buildings sagging under the weight of disrepair and paint-chipped doorways that barely hint of "business as usual" beyond the threshold.

In its efforts to revitalize the riverfront and attract new businesses, shoppers and tourists, the city's multi-phase revitalization project will include a hotel, offices and retail stores along with the city's new marina. The project is estimated to cost more than $45 million.

Charles Jones, owner with his wife, Rose, of Jones Hair Processing Center, has been at 411 West Main Street since 1961. The business has been successful, he said, with customers coming from all over the Delmarva Peninsula.

HE SAID he is in favor of the city's project and for progress and growth, but, when it became apparant he must relocate, the city did not keep him informed about the project. At his request to the city council April 14, he and the city began negotiations concerning his move.

Jones said he is disappointed that he won't be part of the new business center planned for the area. He said the city first told him his business would be included in the revitalization project but he later learned he would have to relocate.

According to Joseph Sample, owner of the barber shop adjacent to Jones' business, he, too, was under the impression his business would be included in the project.

"That's what we sanctified and voted for," he said.

"It was a very deceptive thought," Jones said, "when it doesn't seem to be working out that way."

What Jones would like now is the cosmetic repair of the building until the revitalization efforts begin. The city bought the building as part of the project but, according to Mayor W. Paul Martin, it is uncertain whether relocation will occur in the fall as planned because developer Robert A. Fox has not yet obtained financing for the project.

Martin said the businesses originally were included in the plans but the project grew into the major project of today. He said he felt strongly that the businesses should remain in the area, adding, the city will make every effort to make sure everyone's satisfied.

TO ACCOMMODATE the developer, the city is buying properties along West Main Street and Lake Street. To date, according to city executive secretary Patrick J. Fennell, the city purchased $1,077,603 in land and buildings for the marina and the "market" portion of the project, using $688,103 in city funds and the rest in Project Open Space and Housing and Urban Development funds.

Fennell said the developer will purchase the property, except for a portion of the marina property, back from the city. He said the city is only assembling parcels of developable land as an inducement for the developer.

Jones said he will have to relocate because he will not be able to afford the new rents in the area once the project is completed. He said he could not discuss what he is paying now or can afford later as

(See MOVE, page A3)

Spring Cleaning

City of Salisbury public works employees Bill Dotson, left, and Ray Miller scrape out a year's worth of leaves from the fountain in the City Park. The task is performed once a year. (Times Photo by Larry Alpaugh)

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anned, adding that he thinks
Swartz, a multi-millionaire, will
have no problems in acquiring
financing for the downtown de-
velopment.

"I think it's a positive move because I think Fox lost some credibility in the area," Martin said. "There were too many promises and not enough deliveries."

Martin said he thinks the change in the partnership will "reaffirm confidence in the project." He said he thinks the $45 million West Side development of a hotel and stores including the city's new marina will proceed, although he said Swartz did not present a financial package to the city nor have any negotiations occurred.

Fox was not available for comment.

SALISBURY — Robert A. Fox, the developer of Salisbury's riverfront revitalization has been removed from the Downtown Salisbury Limited Partnership, according to Mayor W. Paul Martin, who said another partnership member is taking over as the city's contact.

Martin said Joseph Swartz of the partnership met with him and the council this week to "get acquainted." He said the contract between the city and the partnership is remaining the same, the only change in the project being the city's contact person.

Martin said the city had nothing to do with the removal of Fox from the partnership and he doesn't

Dedication Committee 4/12/86

The committee for planning the June 21 dedication of the 47-slip marina along West Main Street in Salisbury work out festivity details. Counterclockwise from left are President of Volunteers in Partnership Lori White, dedication committee member Joanna Abercrombie, RUDAT promotions coordinator Joe Pollio, marina dedication committee chairman Pete Cooper, Downtown Salisbury committee chairman Nancy Carragher, marina committee chairman Russell Messick and Rich Stover of the YMCA. The marina is part of the Riverfronts Revitalization project. (Times Photo)

Marina Slips May Be Leased Soon

'Port Of Salisbury' To Be Dedicated June 21-22

5/16/86

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Slips at the Salisbury marina, gearing up for its June 21-22 dedication ceremonies as the "Port of Salisbury," will be available for leasing June 23 and boaters will soon be able to submit their applications to the downtown revitalization office.

Office director Philip "Pete" Cooper said the final lease agreement forms will be available in the next few days. He said his office already received 15 inquiries and, because slips will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, it is "not too soon to be making application."

Dockage rates for transient boats are 50 cents per foot per day plus power costs. Power service charges are $3 a day for 30 amps and $5 a day for 50 amps.

Monthly rates are $3 a foot per month plus power costs. Power charges are $25 a month for 30-amp service and $75 a month for 50-amp service.

ANNUAL rates, based on an April 1 to March 31 year, will be $600 a year plus power costs for boats up to 32 feet in length, $850 a year plus power for boats 32 feet to 48 feet and $1,000 a year plus power for boats 48 feet and longer.

For annual agreements, power charges are $25 a month for 30 amps and $75 a month for 50 amps. Cooper said the 50-amp service rates are greater than 30-amp rates because boats needing this service usually have air conditioning and heating units that use a great amount of power.

According to the rate schedule, the rates are subject to change without prior notice. People living aboard their boats for more than 15 days will be charged transient rates.

"We're not encouraging people to come in and make it their home away from home," Cooper said. He said the 15-day limit was determined to permit people to vacation on their boats.

COOPER said of the 47 slips and available dockage space, the city wants to keep about one-third of the marina open to transients. He said the marina, which will be under the management of the city's public works department, should be about 60 percent full to meet its operating budget.

"Maybe it's not making the maximum economic advantage for the marina," Cooper said about keeping some slips open to transients, "but it will be providing the maximum benefits to the city."

City Executive Secretary Patrick J. Fennell said the city is new to operating a marina. He said it is expected that of the city's proposed fiscal 1987 $58,978 marina budget, about $38,000 will be received in revenues. The remaining $20,000, he added, are for one-time, first-year costs which will probably mean the marina will require a smaller budget for its second year of operation.

Fennell said it will take about one to two years experience operating the marina before it can be determined how many slips need to be filled to meet the budget. He said the city expects the marina to eventually pay for itself.

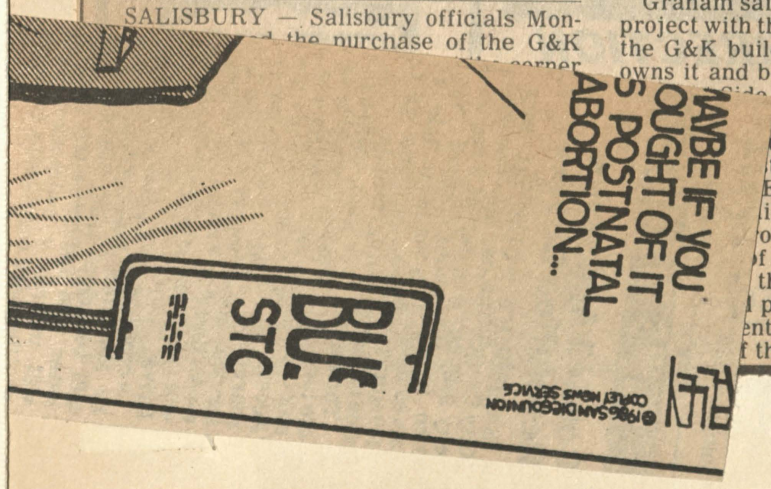
Cooper said the city is in the process of selecting a dockmaster who will be in charge of the leasing agreements. He said, however, until the dockmaster's building on the west side of the marina is completed, applications for marina space should be submitted to his office.

Group Purchases G&K Building

5/13/86

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Salisbury officials Mon- ...d the purchase of the G&K ...corner



the project from Robert A. Fox, who left the partnership, was not discussed.

Graham said Swartz said he will begin the project with the revitalization and leasing of the G&K building because the partnership owns it and because he plans on making it ...headquarters. According to a ...ued by the city, the 20,000 ...uilding will serve as the pro- ...tone and form "the connecting ...East and West Salisbury."

...id Swartz also had preliminary ...om architects Zemaitis and ...f Lanham, Md., with him last ... the design of a commer- ...l pavilion which is proposed for ...nt to the West Side riverfront. ...f the project, which Fennell said was phase 1A while the G&K building was phase 2, would include 50,000 square feet of restaurants, boutiques and open promenades.

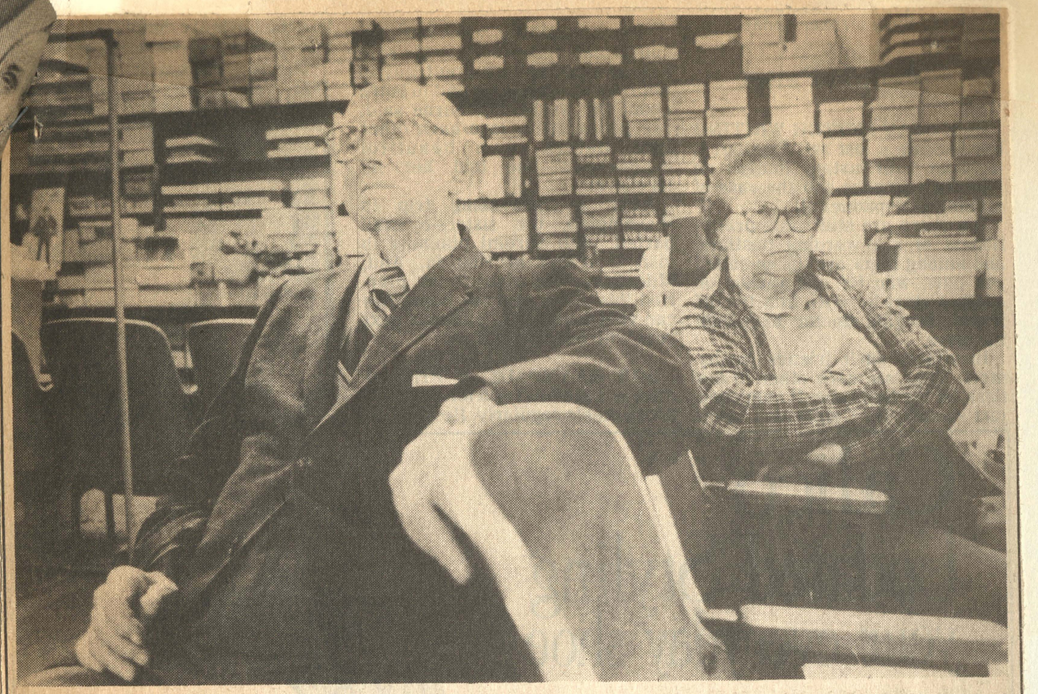
"WE LIKED his enthusiasm," Graham said, adding, Swartz left the officials with the "feeling he is not totally familiar with the project" but wants to be. She said the plans have not been changed as a result of Fox leaving the project.

When asked about the project's financing, which delayed the project when Fox could not acquire industrial revenue bonds, Eaton said the partnership was able to purchase the G&K building without financing.

Graham said Swartz did not indicate the time frame involved with either of the two phases or what the G&K building would be used for other than partnership headquarters. She said Swartz will be studying "the economic feasibility of what would best complement him in this building."

Further development aimed at existing West Side businesses and residences are not now being addressed, according to Graham and Fennell. She said the businesses who may be relocating because of the revitalization project would not have to do so before summer.

Fennell said the city has no plans at this time for the remaining area located across from the riverfront. He said the city will "wait and see" what comes out of the workshop held last Saturday held by the Downtown Salisbury Revitalization-Planning Committee to hear the public's concerns and opinions about revitalizing the area.



END OF AN ERA. Harry M. Fields and his wife, Martha, sit in Fields Department Store, his 62-year-old West Main Street business. Fields sold the building, which also houses his home, to the City of Salisbury as part of the West Side revitalization project. (Times Photo by Larry Alpaugh)

MOVE

(Continued from page A1)

well as what the city is offering him for the relocation because of the negotiations.

"They spoke to me about relocation," Jones said. "I spoke to them about location — here. They divided and conquered us — or tried to conquer us."

Martin said only Jones and Sample have voiced dissatisfaction with the plans. He said he has no problem with a plan discussed recently to locate the two stores in the Franklin Hotel further down the street but the city can't and won't subsidize people.

The city also purchased the Lake

taxpayer money to accomplish the $45 million project. He said, if Fox doesn't develop the area, the city has other interested developers and it will be private funds that provide the $45 million.

Part of the property purchased includes Field's Department Store, owned by Harry M. Fields. The 92-year-old proprietor has had his business on West Main Street for 62 years.

Fields' wife, Martha, said the city bought the property, which includes their home upstairs, for enough money to enable the couple to build a Nanticoke home on Johnson Road. She said her husband didn't receive a "nest egg out of this. Just enough to build a home."

Fields said everyone from the

with tears in his eyes, added that customers have said to him, "Why, Mr. Fields, you can't leave us."

While the businessmen in the area feel they are in limbo about their future, Martin said "we're in the same boat." He said he also has been impatient with the difficulty the developer has had obtaining financing.

Martin said he is concerned the West Side development has not yet been completed, but added, that it is a "good project" that will help the city. He said all the businessmen in the area have been told everything the city knows.

For Johnnie Wilson, relocation of his barber shop to West Road was a good move. He said relocating without help from the city did inconvenience him but now that

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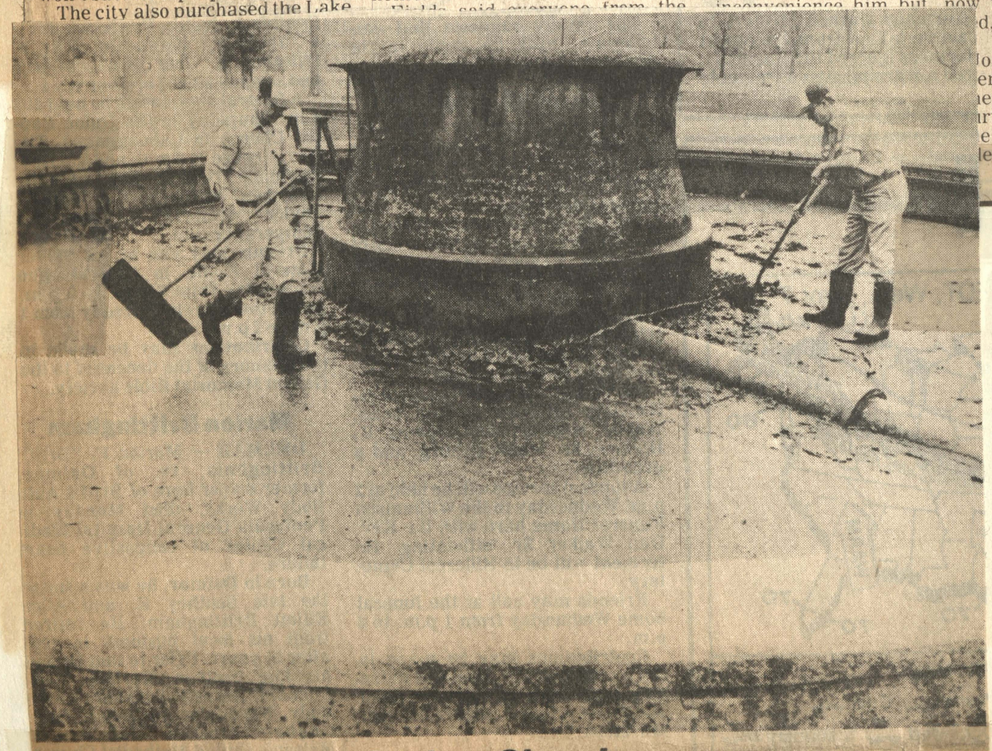

Spring Cleaning

City of Salisbury public works employees Bill Dotson, left, and Ray Miller scrape out a year's worth of leaves from the fountain in the City Park. The task is performed once a year. (Times Photo by Larry Alpaugh) 5/6/86

Hearing On Manokin Sewer OK'd

5/7/86

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

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Karen Hoffman-Dennis, county grants administrator, said the public hearing will focus on whether the project should be curtailed to a limited area to avoid charging property owners the cost of the connection or should the area be expanded to include additional residences which would require charging the property owners a one-time front-foot assessment of $381.

The project was designed to alleviate the neighborhood's erupting septic system problems.

Hoffman-Dennis said the county applied for a Housing and Urban Development grant to expand the project and avoid charging property owners. While she suggested the commission, comprised of county council members, wait until it was known whether the county received the grant, the council voted to proceed with the hearing.

County administrative director Matthew Creamer told the commission, if the public hearing is not held soon, the project will lose construction time. Hoffman-Dennis has said she suggested applying for the additional grant when the project's construction was held up during the winter months.

The county already received a $500,000 HUD grant for the project's first phase and the second grant application is a request for $273,000 to cover the costs of the second phase. While the first phase of the project will service 147 homes, the second phase will service about 33 homes.

Fox No Longer In Salisbury Project

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Martin said Joseph Swartz of the partnership met with him and the council this week to "get acquainted." He said the contract between the city and the partnership is remaining the same, the only change in the project being the city's contact person.

Martin said the city had nothing to do with the removal of Fox from the partnership and he doesn't know why the change occurred. He said the project is continuing as planned, adding that he thinks Swartz, a multi-millionaire, will have no problems in acquiring financing for the downtown development.

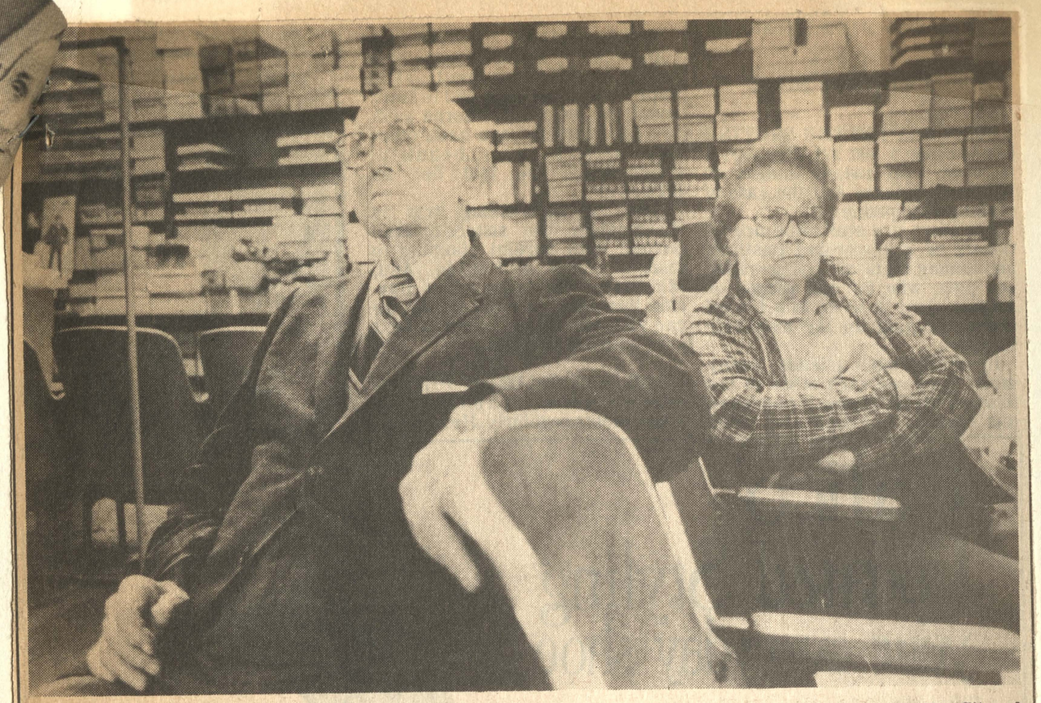
"I think it's a positive move because I think Fox lost some credibility in the area," Martin said. "There were too many promises and not enough deliveries."

Martin said he thinks the change in the partnership will "reaffirm confidence in the project." He said he thinks the $45 million West Side development of a hotel and stores including the city's new marina will proceed, although he said Swartz did not present a financial package to the city nor have any negotiations occurred.

Fox was not available for comment.

Card Of Thanks

Funeral will be in Oak Fellows



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MOVE

(Continued from page A1)

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Everett M. Hubbert

FEDERALSBURG — Everett M. Hubbert, 77, a farmer and poultryman, died Monday in his home near Federalsburg of Parkinson's Disease.

The family suggests that contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Cynthia A. Jester, Frederick, Md.; a brother, Kenneth Wilson, Wilmington; four grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday in the Union Baptist Church in Chincoteague. The Rev. George T. Smith and the Rev. Raymond Britton will officiate. Interment will be in the John

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Spring C...

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Fox was not available for comment.

Dedication Committee 4/12/86

The committee for planning the June 21 dedication of the 47-slip marina along West Main Street in Salisbury work out festivity details. Counterclockwise from left are President of Volunteers in Partnership Lori White, dedication committee member Joanna Abercrombie, RUDAT promotions coordinator Joe Pollio, marina dedication committee chairman Pete Cooper, Downtown Salisbury committee chairman Nancy Carragher, marina committee chairman Russell Messick and Rich Stover of the YMCA. The marina is part of the Riverfronts Revitalization project. (Times Photo)

Marina Slips May Be Leased Soon

'Port Of Salisbury' To Be Dedicated June 21-22

5/16/86

By SUSAN GERSTEL
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Dockage rates for transient boats are 50 cents per foot per day plus power costs. Power service charges are $3 a day for 30 amps and $5 a day for 50 amps.

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According to the rate schedule, the rates are subject to change without prior notice. People living aboard their boats for more than 15 days will be charged transient rates.

"We're not encouraging people to come in and make it their home away from home," Cooper said. He said the 15-day limit was determined to permit people to vacation on their boats.

COOPER said of the 47 slips and available dockage space, the city wants to keep about one-third of the marina open to transients. He said the marina, which will be under the management of the city's public works department, should be about 60 percent full to meet its operating budget.

"Maybe it's not making the maximum economic advantage for the marina," Cooper said about keeping some slips open to transients, "but it will be providing the maximum benefits to the city."

City Executive Secretary Patrick J. Fennell said the city is new to operating a marina. He said it is expected that of the city's proposed fiscal 1987 $58,978 marina budget, about $38,000 will be received in revenues. The remaining $20,000, he added, are for one-time, first-year costs which will probably mean the marina will require a smaller budget for its second year of operation.

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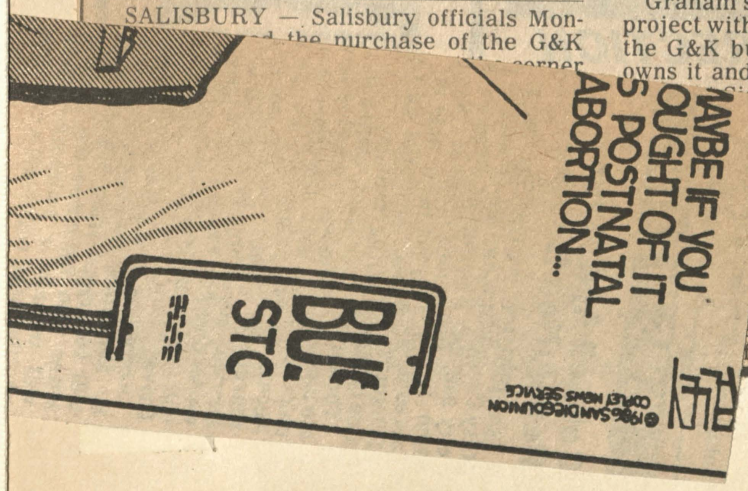

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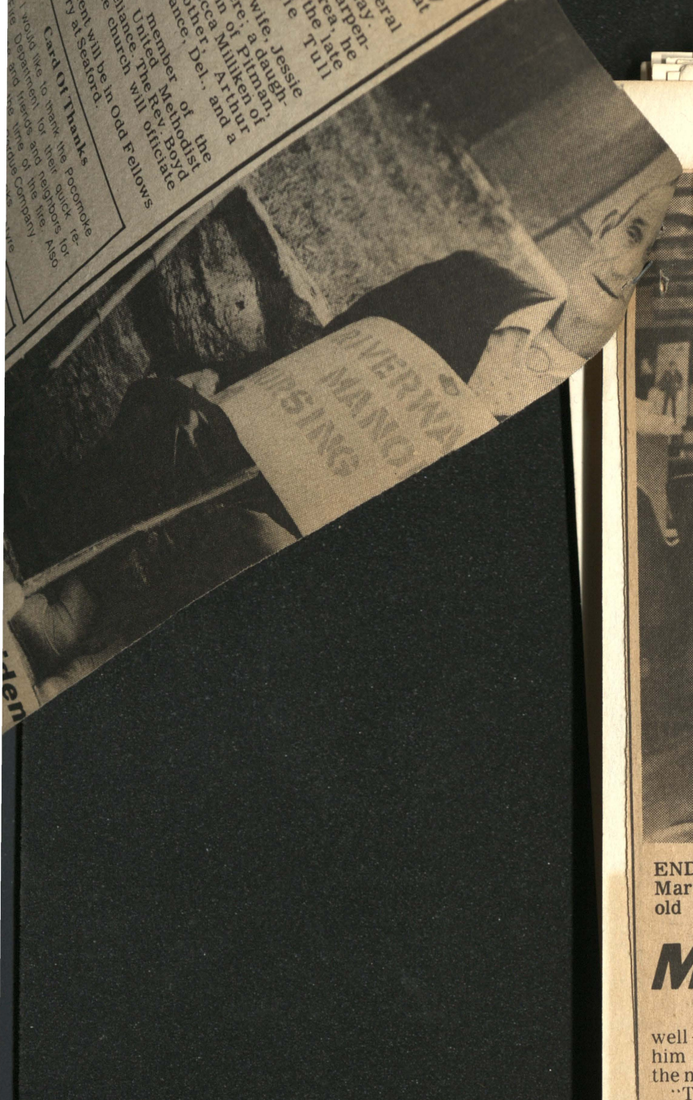

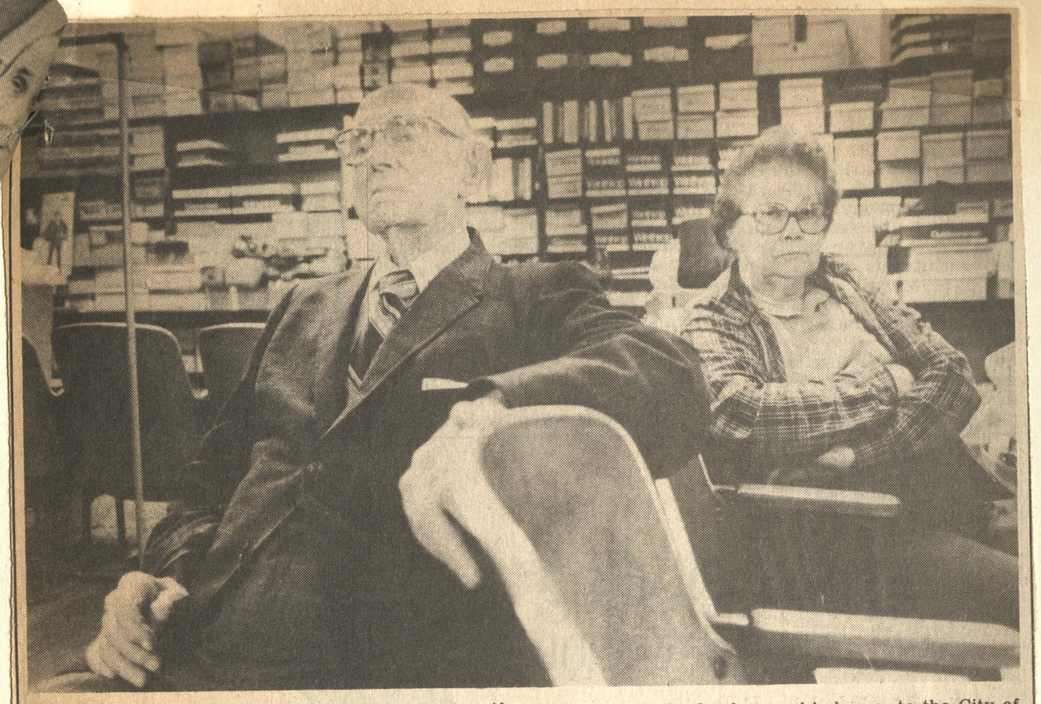

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Salisbury, Md. Tues., May 13, 1986

NEWS IN BRIEF

Council Approves Resolution Review

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved the city solicitor's review of a resolution for the annexation of four acres located on the north side of Schumaker Drive and on the west side of Tide Mill Apartments.

Thomas P. Monahan, owner of the land, is proposing to develop 48 units of flats and townhouses. Access to the property and the source of water and sewer service, according to city public works director Thomas D. Plotts, will ve from North Schumaker Drive.

According to a letter submitted by Monahan, the condominiums will be priced from $59,000. The letter also indicates the project will include a swimming pool, shuffle board court and a common garden.

Dedication Committee 4/12/86

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5/13/86

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Of The Times Staff

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Salisbury City Councilwoman Martha Graham said she, City Executive Secretary Patrick J. Fennell and acting city solicitor Robert Eaton met with partnership member Joseph Swartz last Thursday to discuss the partnership's plans for the project. She said the plans were discussed in a limited way and Swartz's takeover in the project from Robert A. Fox, who left the partnership, was not discussed.

Graham said Swartz said he will begin the project with the revitalization and leasing of the G&K building because the partnership owns it and because he plans on making it his West Side headquarters. According to a statement issued by the city, the 20,000 square-foot building will serve as the project's cornerstone and form "the connecting link between East and West Salisbury."

Graham said Swartz also had preliminary drawings from architects Zemaitis and Associates of Lanham, Md., with him last week for the design of a commercial/festival pavilion which is proposed for land adjacent to the West Side riverfront. This part of the project, which Fennell said was phase 1A while the G&K building was phase 2, would include 50,000 square feet of restaurants, boutiques and open promenades.

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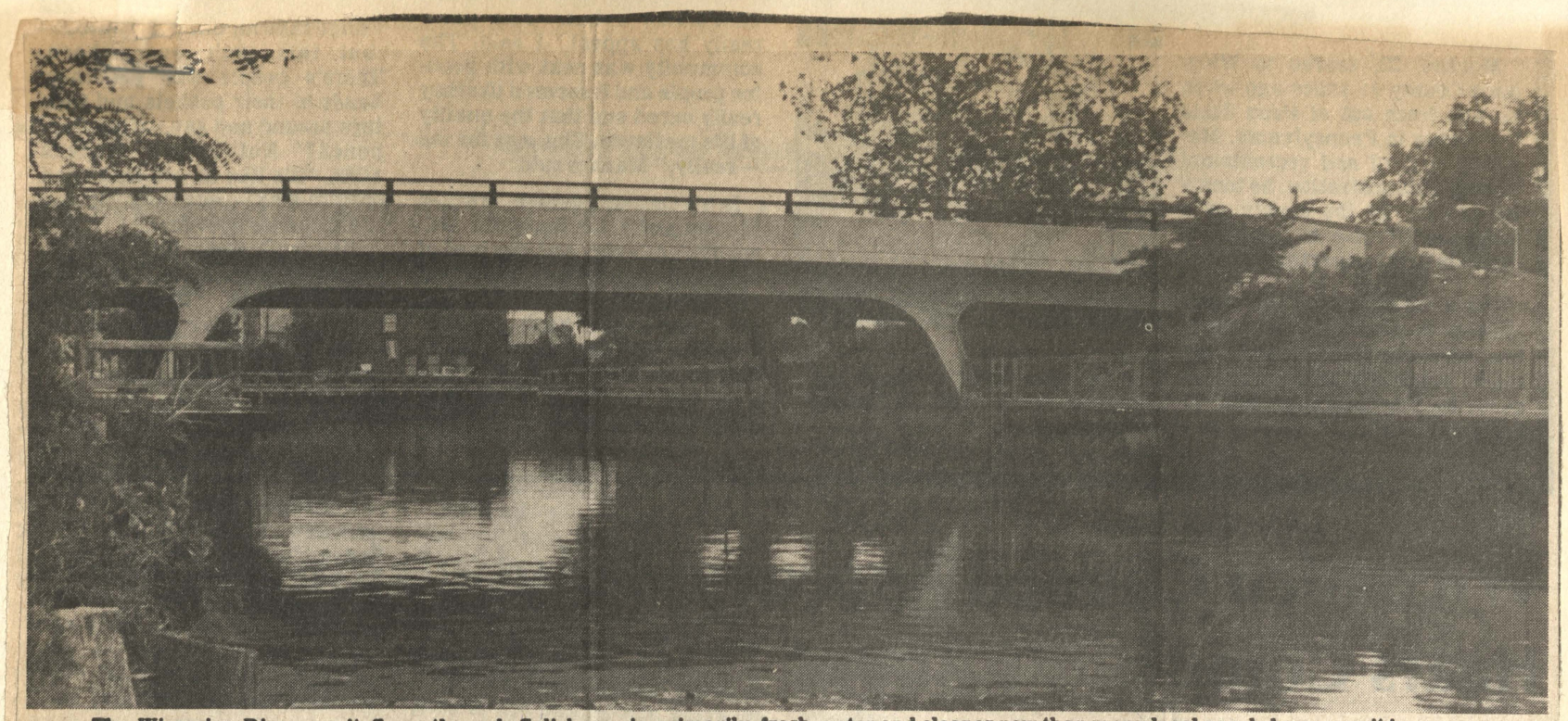

The Wicomico River, as it flows through Salisbury, is primarily fresh water and cleaner now than many local people have seen it in years.

Wicomico River

Industries Have Worked Hard on Clean-Up But Popularity is Now Hurting Bass Fishing

By VALERIE DILLEHAY

It absorbs the discards of a city, industries and those who inhabit its shores. A cooling retreat in the summer and a source of food, the Wicomico River is a great provider.

According to some, it has suffered from overuse in the past, but a heightened awareness of the river's needs during the past ten years has resulted in an improved natural resource.

The upper portion of the 29-mile river that stretches from Salisbury to join the Nanticoke River in its path to the Chesapeake Bay is freshwater well-suited for bass fishing and boating.

Industries that rely on the Wicomico for operation including Perdue Inc. and Campbell Soup Company have during the past five years made concerted efforts, prompted by federal mandates, to insure that they are not responsible for the decline of these prime fishing grounds.

"As corporate citizens, it is our responsibility to do the best we can for the river. We are constantly testing and trying to come up with new ways to produce cleaner water," said Fred McLean, manager of the wastewater treatment plant at Perdue Inc.

The facility was installed by the company in 1980 at a cost of several million dollars, McLean reports. Wastewater from the company plant in Salisbury is fed through the treatment facility for an initial cleansing prior to being sent on to the Salisbury Municipal Sewage Treatment Plant for a more thorough cleaning before being deposited in the Wicomico.

Enormous Clean Out

"We pump about 1.4 to 1.6 million gallons of sludge a day out of our water which is about one-third of the city's waste," McLean said.

Prior to 1980, Perdue had no pre-treatment facility, he noted. "The better we do, the better the city can clean up what it has to. It is essential to have a close working relationship with the city. So many people take for granted the wastewater treatment capabilities, but we know it is a very important function," he added.

The attitude of industries and their committment to maintaining a clean natural resource is the key according to McLean. " We have a direct impact on the environment and everyone on the crew at the plant here has become sort of part-time environmentalists," he said.

According to Thomas Plotts, director of public works for the City of Salisbury, the quality of the water coming from the city's plant has improved a great deal during the past 10 years. " The pre-treatment plants at area industries have helped us out a lot by segregating the toxic pollutants from the wastewater," he explained. The city is currently preparing for the installation of a system to reduce the amount of phosphorus in the treatment facility's discharge. Phosphorus has been cited by environmentalists as a nutrient responsible for an overabundance of algae blooms which overload the ecological system of the river. The city currently discharges water containing a phosphorus count of nine parts per million. While this is not dangerously high, Plotts maintained, the new system should be able to reduce that to two parts per million by 1988. "This should really help clean up some of the spare nutrients found in the river that can clog up during the summer," he explained.

Continued on Page 3

No Parking Ban To Be Lifted

6/12/86

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved removing a "No Parking 3 a.m. to 7 a.m." sign from the southern side of E. Isabella Steet between North Division Street and 200 feet from North Salisbury Blvd.

The request came from the Newtown Association and was recommended by city public works director Thomas D. Plotts.

Letters will be written to trucking companies and carriers with trucks traveling the street, marked "No Thru Trucks," reminding them of the regulation and asking for their cooperation.

Council Considers Playground Request

6/24

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council is considering a request by residents to construct a playground on Delaware Avenue, north of Route 50.

Essie Wigfall presented a petition of 253 signatures to the council for a playground to accommodte small children. She said children are playing on the sidewalks in an area where traffic is heavy.

Council president Norman Conway told Wigfall that the city has already approved its new fiscal budget and acquisition of property for such a facility will require a survey by the city with the cooperation of the county's recreation commission.

Council Approves Three Ordinances

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved three ordinances affecting water and sewer and restaurant rates as well as a $3,860,000 bond issue.

The water and sewer ordinance increases the highest industrial user rate by one cent per thousand gallons. The restaurant license fee from $10 to $25 which city finance director Roger Baskerville said will cover the city's administrative costs associated with the licenses.

The council also approved the first reading of the bond issue which will be used for projects such as road improvements. The council's vote on the sale of the bond issue was set for July 30 at 11 a.m.

6/24/86

Dotson, left, and Ray Miller scrape out a year's

by Larry Alpaugh)

5/6/86

to do with the removal of Fox from the partnership and he doesn't

Fox was not available for comment.

Port Project Gets Praise, Criticism

By VALERIE DILLEHAY

It is the first step in a long-awaited project to breathe life into an area largely-ignored until recently, but the Port of Salisbury Marina has drawn its share of criticism despite the promise it holds for the city's image.

After six years of planning, the city will officially dedicate its new marina this weekend with a two-day celebration featuring a seafood festival, entertainment and paddlewheel-boat cruises on the Wicomico River.

However, the benefits such a facility will bring to the city are difficult for some city residents to discern.

"It's just messin' up business down here. Most everybody is afraid we will have to leave," said Maudie Sample, owner of Maudie and Jimmy's Place restaurant located across the street from the facility. She is one of several shop owners in the vicinity concerned about the project's possible impact on business.

Lenwood Bratten, owner of Len's Barber Shop adjacent to the restaurant, said that although he thinks the marina project is a good idea, he too is afraid the development will eventually mean the end of business for him. "My brother had this place before me, but together we have been here since 1962. If I have to go, I'm not sure what I'll do . . . probably move out of state," said Bratten. Most merchants along the downtown plaza support the facility. Jack Purnell, owner of Kuhn's Jewelers, said he believes the marina will add a great deal to the atmosphere of desirability to the downtown area. "That section of town has needed work for some-

Continued on Page 2

The Port of Salisbury's is empty now, but not for long. The 47 slip marina ll be dedicated in a daylong celebration this Saturday. The festivities will corporate the YMCA's annual all-you-can-eat Salisbury Seafood Festival.

'I don't know what the problem s been. To me, if I am going to ve a cocktail party, I am going get my house ready and try to my best foot forward. That is approach the city should have the marina. It is my town and me they're presenting. I don't t to look like a fool," Carier said.

Denies Reluctance

t Fennell, executive secre- for the City of Salisbury, de- any reluctance from the city pport the project. "That's ri- ous. The city hasn't dragged et. We have been 100 percent d the marina project all ," Fennell stated. Some de- in construction of the facility been due to an unexpected ase in the cost of the project, plained. "It's going to be fin- on time," Fennell added.

marina has 47 slips with 32 e designated for permanent s. Slips will be available for ge on Monday following the dedication . The facility offers gas and diesel fuel, showers and restrooms, a dockmaster, and sewage pump-out services. Dockage rates for transient boats are .50 cents per foot a day. Monthly fees are $3 per foot for each rental. Annual dockage fees are $600 per year for boats up to 32 feet in length, $850 per year for boats ranging in length from 32 to 48 feet, and $1,000 per year for boats measuring 48 feet or longer. Electrical power supplied from the dock is an additional charge.

Russell Messick, chairman of the Port of Salisbury Marina Committee, said that timing for the construction of the marina had been a problem. "If we had been two weeks earlier in doing all of these things, we would have been on schedule. But I don't see any problems getting the marina ready by the dedication," he groups such as power squadrons will want to come here on long weekend tours," he noted.

"The marina needs the support of the downtown merchants, and the merchants need the support of the marina. It has got to be a hand in hand relationship. Boaters look for something to do when they dock. They want to shop or visit local restaurants," said Messick. Messick and his five fellow committee members are all boaters. "Down the road the entire west side of town will be totally revamped. Everybody's got something to gain out of this project," Messick commented.

Cooper pointed out that drawing attention to the city's waterfront will improve city residents' view of Salisbury as well. "The Wicomico is very pretty. Many residents are unaware of what a great place this is," he said.

Bill Ahtes of Ahtes, Hanna and McLaughlin Real Estate Company and owner of Christophers Restaurant in Salisbury's City Center, predicted that the marina will be a tremendous success. "It is just that anything new is hard to get across. If the people around here don't see it, then they don't believe it, but I think it is going to surprise everyone," he noted.

ets are $14.50. Call 548-4911 for ticket information.

Port Project Draws Criticism and Praise

Continued from Page 1

time. It's progress. Sure there will be some toes stepped on, but it's progress the city badly needs," said Purnell.

Philip Cooper, director of Downtown Revitalization, explained that the marina is the first stage of an overall makeover for the waterfront section of Salisbury. "It is part of the city's project to remove the undesirable development on the west side of town to produce an environment more conducive to an attractive setting," Cooper said.

The Port of Salisbury's is empty now, but not for long. The 47 slip marina will be dedicated in a daylong celebration this Saturday. The festivities will incorporate the YMCA's annual all-you-can-eat Salisbury Seafood Festival.

A Shared Venture

The revitalization of the waterfront in Salisbury is a project shared by state and city agencies. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources contributed to the improvement of the waterway and excavation necessary for the development. The city has been responsible for construction of the marina itself. Total cost of the marina's construction is $1.5 million.

In addition to skepticism from merchants in the neighborhood about the value of such a facility, charges have surfaced that city officials have been slow in their support for the project. "I don't think there has been opposition to the marina, but the marina committee has been saying left and the city council has been saying right, and the two haven't been coming together. Now it's down to the nitty gritty and things are finally starting to move," said Nancy Carragher, president of the Downtown Salisbury Association and owner of Schwinn's Fitness and Fashion in the City Center. She referred to a delay in obtaining funding from city coffers for electrical hook-ups and water for the docks.

"I don't know what the problem has been. To me, if I am going to have a cocktail party, I am going to get my house ready and try to put my best foot forward. That is the approach the city should have for the marina. It is my town and it's me they're presenting. I don't want to look like a fool," Carragher said.

City Denies Reluctance

Pat Fennell, executive secretary for the City of Salisbury, denied any reluctance from the city to support the project. "That's ridiculous. The city hasn't dragged its feet. We have been 100 percent behind the marina project all along," Fennell stated. Some delays in construction of the facility have been due to an unexpected increase in the cost of the project, he explained. "It's going to be finished on time," Fennell added.

The marina has 47 slips with 32 of those designated for permanent rentals. Slips will be available for dockage on Monday following the formal dedication . The facility offers gas and diesel fuel, showers and restrooms, a dockmaster, and sewage pump-out services. Dockage rates for transient boats are .50 cents per foot a day. Monthly fees are $3 per foot for each rental. Annual dockage fees are $600 per year for boats up to 32 feet in length, $850 per year for boats ranging in length from 32 to 48 feet, and $1,000 per year for boats measuring 48 feet or longer. Electrical power supplied from the dock is an additional charge.

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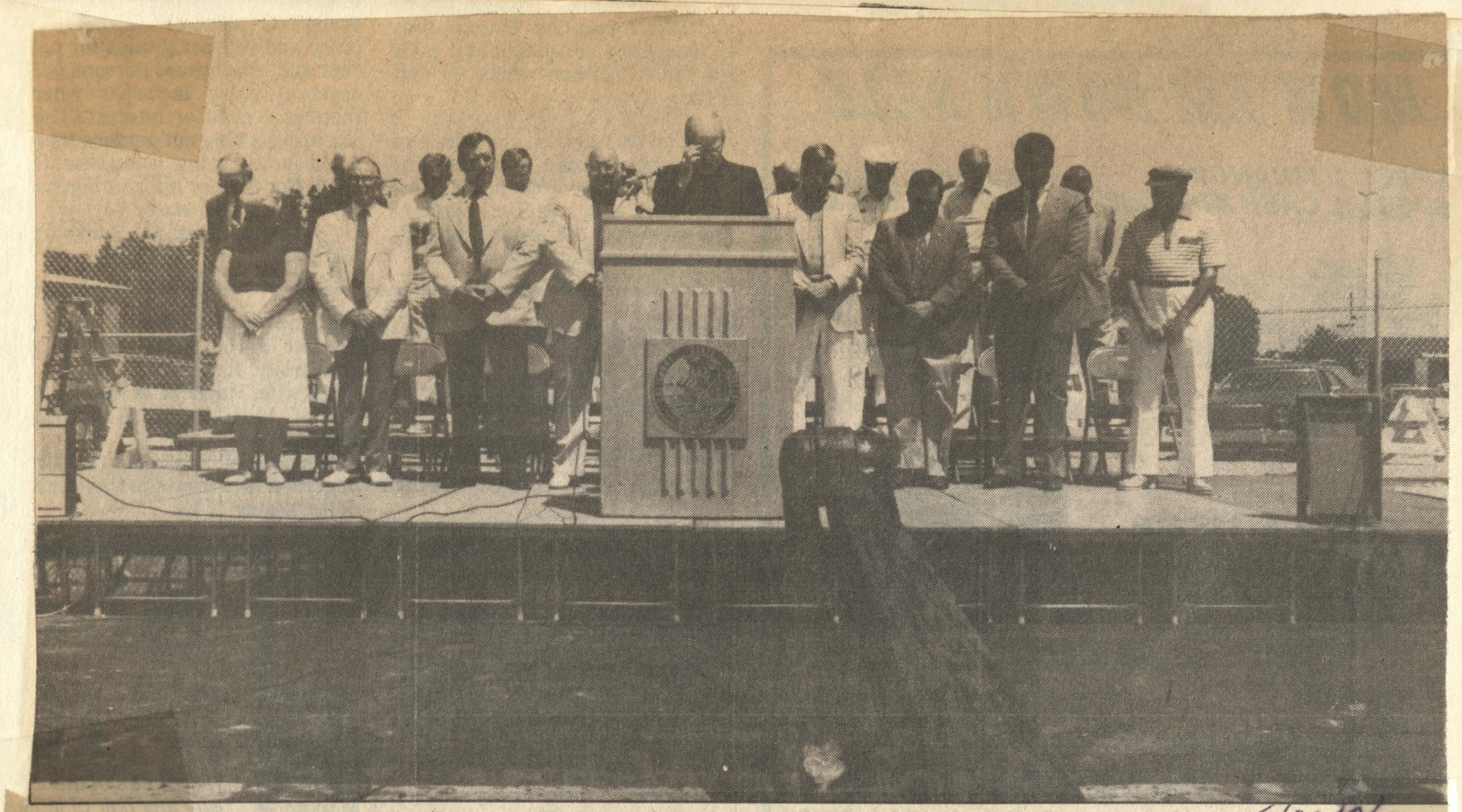

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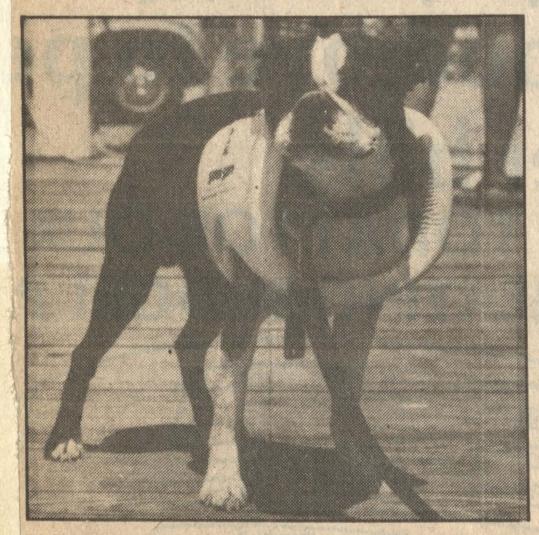


Marina Prayer

Lord God, Creator of All that is,We today rejoice in this marina for our use.

We are grateful that it enhances the quality of our life;

We are grateful that the people of Salisbury have been given the honor of being its stewards.

Plunged into water — always a sign of new life in your Scriptures— may this marina be for the city a sign of the rebirth and renewal ofthe west side of Salisbury.

May it be a source of pride for all in this community.

May all who approach this marina find a safe haven and warm hospitality.

Lord, Holy Proctector, Source of all Blessings, we ask your belssing upon all the boats that use this water-way.

Bless them with your protection and shield from harm and injury all who navigate these waters.

May those who captain theseboats always do so with diligence and safety.

May they show respect for your gift of life by honoring the rights of all who use this waterway.

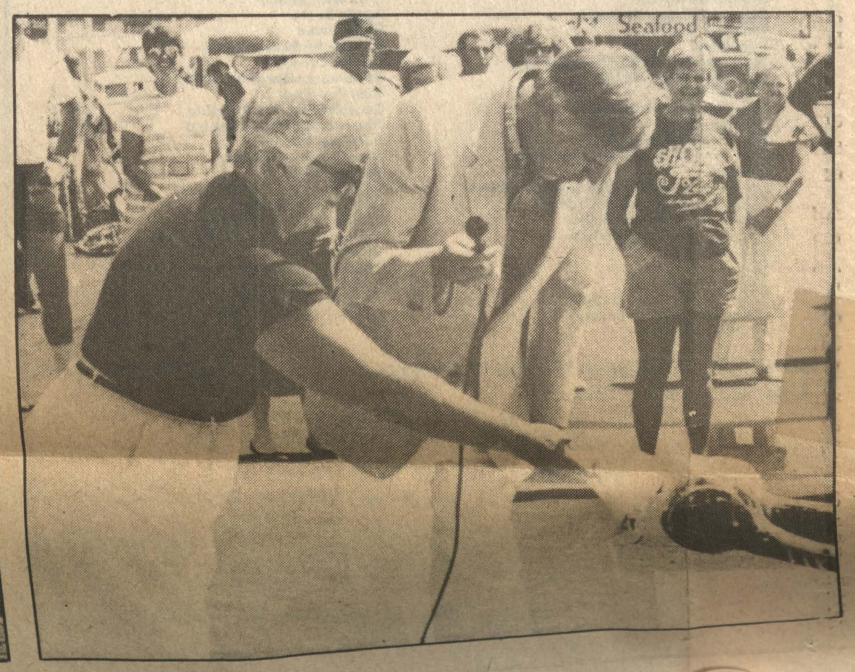
Lord, by your grace, may these boats open doors in the lives of their owners and passengers for adventure, travel, beauty and service to others.

May you, Our God, be the constant companion of all who sail these waters and seek a haven at this marina.

Lord, Our God, source of every goodness and all grace, may your Divine Blessing rest upon this marina and these boats and upon each of us, who, today, rejoices in these gifts from your hands, for our use.

AMEN.

...from the benediction given by Father William Irwin (pastor, St. Francis de Sales) at the close of the Marina Dedication ceremony. The *News & Advertiser* is grateful for being permitted to print it here.



Marina, Seafood Events Attract Visitors To City

6/22/86

By BARBARA AUDET
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Under bright blue skies and in front of a warm but enthusiastic crowd of 200, the new Port of Salisbury Marina was christened, blessed and officially dedicated Saturday.

Acting as master of ceremonies for the event was Thomas Draper, owner of Draper Communications, Inc. and WBOC-TV, who welcomed everyone to the launching of what Salisbury officials are hoping will be the first of many such celebrations, as planning for the rest of the marina complex and the Westside neighborhood revitalization continues.

With heads bowed, the audience listened as Rev. Howard L. Gordy prayed. "May your divine blessing rest upon this marina and these boaters," he said.

Present at the dedication were members of the Salisbury City Council and Mayor W. Paul Martin, members of the Wicomico County Council and several dignitaries from state agencies in Annapolis.

Martin said that the opening of the marina represents an "all new era" for the city. "For too long we've neglected our river, now we must move forward on the Westside," he commented. "This is just the beginning."

MARTIN ADDED that other needs such as housing and creating more jobs will be addressed as a benefit of the marina. "All those things will come to pass," he said.

Salisbury City Council President Norman H. Conway said, "It's tremendous. To me this shows you what can happen when you utilize the talents and abilities of those who are willing to share them." He said that it is not a new thing for Salisbury residents to "pull together to get things done. I would hope this would be the catalyst for the Westside development, but as a whole, it is a real plus," Conway concluded.

After the ceremonies, visitors took time to take a ride up the Wicomico River on the Capt. Tyler II, a paddleboat here for the occasion from its Smith Island home port, accompanied on their cruise by powerful streams from the two water cannons of the Salisbury Fire Department boat which were pumping 1,000 gallons of river water into the air each minute.

RIGHT NEXT door to the marina dedication, 100 volunteers were getting ready to serve up over 1,100 tickets-worth of steamed crabs, clams, corn and other Eastern Shore seafood treats. According to Harvey Mills, one of the volunteers, over 50 bushels of crabs were spiced and ready for the first wave of hungry ticket-holders for the 4th Annual Great Salisbury Seafood Festival.

"I hope we don't run out," he said, as he and Katy Stover, another volunteer, wrapped the hot steamed crabs in paper. The funds generated by the Seafood Festival will go to provide new equipment at the Mid-Delmarva Family YMCA in Salisbury, said one of the festival organizers, Lori White.

Under the grey and blue tent, people happily cracked crabs and ate buttered corn while listening to the musical entertainment being provided at the marina by U.S. Navy players from the "Port Authority" Navy Band. Strolling the marina, and crafting balloon animals for children was Sunshine the Clown, and stopping traffic with flying juggler's pins and unicycles were the Crab Trap Jugglers — Mark Kloch and Susan Kirby, both of Baltimore.

Earlier in the day, racers kicked off the celebration with a five kilometer and a one mile race.

MARINA DEDICATION events are continuing today with more riverboat cruises from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and gospel music entertainment by several groups including the Rev. Nathaniel Edwards and the Gospel Tabernacle Choir, Ira Brumley and the Triumphants and Shirley Elliot and the Perdue Chorus. Food will also be served from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

City Council OKs Zone Change For Dykes Road Plan

7/29/86

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday night approved the annexation and the R-8 zoning of a Dykes Road tract of land slated for single family residences, despite opposition by area property owners.

Developer Jack Causey of Larry J. Causey and Sons Inc., is proposing to build about 160 homes priced at $45,000 and higher on the approximate 45 acres of land on the south side of Dykes Road east of South Division Street. The council approved annexing the property to the city as well as permitting lots to start at 8,000 square feet.

Property owners in the area objected to the R-8 zoning, saying the homes would detract from the value of their properties which are zoned R-15 and R-20, requiring lots of 15,000 and 20,000 square feet, respectively.

Despite the council's compromise that the annexed property be zoned R-8 rather than permitted R-5, or 5,000 square feet zoning, property owners said the value of their $60,000 and higher-priced homes would lessen if the new development was constructed according to such lot sizes. Causey did agree to construct some homes on 10,000 square foot lots to act as a buffer between the new neighborhood and the existing properties.

COUNCIL members said they were sympathetic with the property owners but said they approved of the new development as a way to satisfy public pressure that the city provide lower-priced housing for young people and retired citizens. Council President Norman Conway and councilman Robert Powell said if the city did not annex the property, Causey could get approval for city water and sewer through Wicomico County's Urban Services which would double the price for the developer and city taxpayers would not receive property tax revenues.

When residents asked why they didn't have a say in whether the property adjacent to their own is annexed and what the zoning is, Mayor W. Paul Martin said a single-property owner has the right to petition the council concerning only his own property. He said if an area comprising many property owners wished annexation, then 25 percent of the property owners would have to petition the council and the issue would then be decided by a majority of

(See ZONING, page 2)

Tot Lot Planned On Delaware Avenue

7/17/86

SALISBURY — A local tot lot will soon be located on Delaware Avenue for area children 12 years and younger, following approval by the Salisbury City Council Monday to lease property owned by the Friendly Benefit Club.

Mayor W. Paul Martin said it would cost the city less and involve less time to use the leased property than to purchase property for the project. He said the cost, estimated between $1,000 and $1,500 for painting and equipment, will be nominal and the children will have a safe place to play now rather than later.

The council approved the use of $1,500 for the playground. Essie Wigfall, the resident who first requested a playground for area children, will be asked to form a committee for the lot's supervision.

City Council OKs Borrowing Funds

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved borrowing $26,000 from its 1984 bond issue to help pay for the $123,480 dockmaster's facility for the city's new marina.

The council also approved using a trailer as temporary housing for the dockmaster's living quarters and office. Construction of the permanent structure is expected to begin June 2 and end Aug. 1.

City Executive Secretary Patrick J. Fennell said the dockmaster's quarters and office will be housed on the second floor of the permanent structure and showers, bathroom, laundry and vending machines will be housed on the first floor.

5/27/86

boaters in groups of at least three that are traveling from another yacht club.

Mayor W. Paul Martin said the fee exemptions would be allowed on a promotional basis rather than a regular basis.

Incinerator Property Is Declared Surplus

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday declared the city's incinerator property as surplus.

By being declared surplus, according to city Executive Officer Patrick J. Fennell, the property can be put up for bids. Fennell's title was formally changed Monday by the council from executive secretary to executive officer.

Fennell told the council that three parties already expressed interest in the property.

Boating Groups Get Promotional Rate

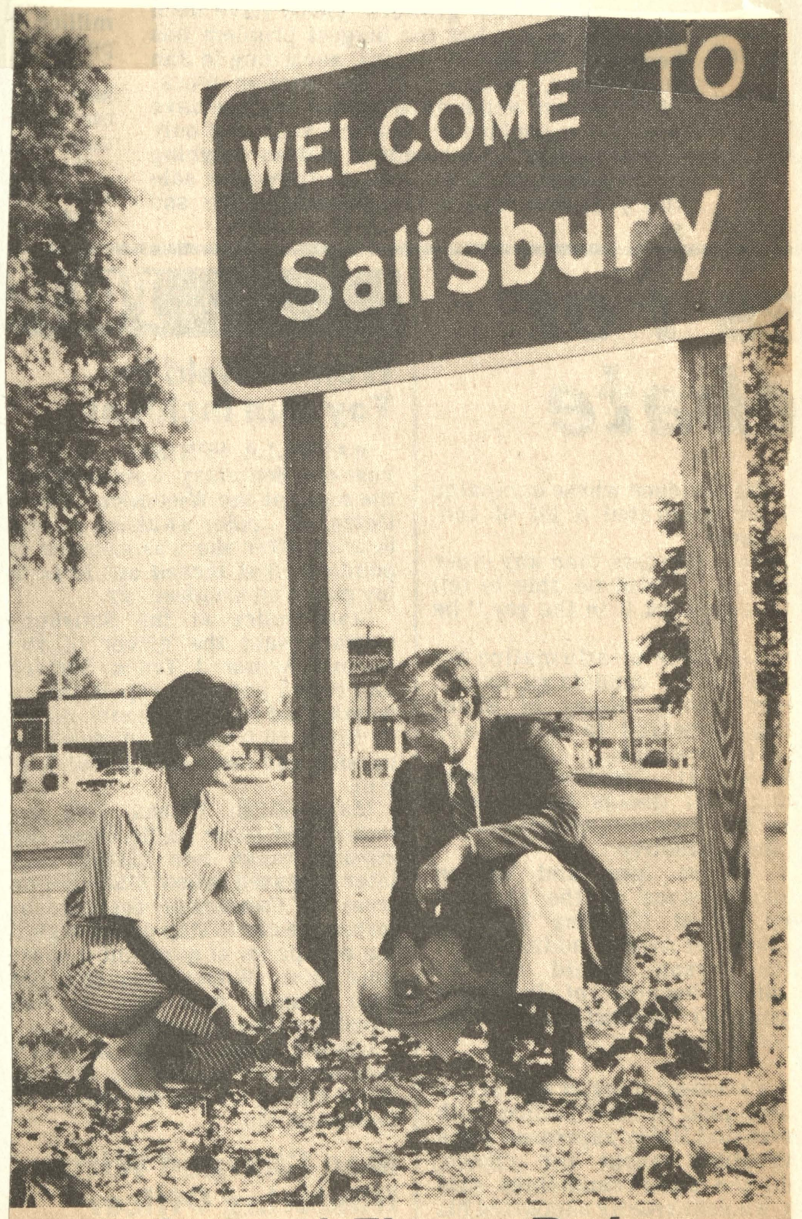
SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved a promotional rate for groups of boaters docking at the Salisbury marina.

According to public works director Thomas Plotts, the dockmaster would not charge electric and pump-out fees to

SALISBURY ZOO. The Salisbury Zoo has more than 72 different species featured in a natural setting. (Times Photo by Larry Alpaugh)

Groundbreaking

Attending Monday's groundbreaking for a more than $2.5 million 96-room Comfort Inn on Route 13 north of Salisbury are, from left: Salisbury Public Works Director Thomas Plotts, Wicomico County Council member John Morris, council Vice President Bruce Ruark, Comfort Inn's General Manager Jim Kubba, Chuck Marshall of developer Marshal Management, council President Henry Parker, Ed Winkler, president of contractor Winkler Construction; Norman Wallace, regional franchise director for the Quality International system of which the Inn will be a part, Salisbury-Wicomico Economic Development Director Robert Kiley, and council member Betty Gardner. (Times Photo) 7/29/86



Inspect Flower Beds

Inspecting a bed of black-eyed Susans at the southern approach to Salisbury on Route 13 are Joanna Abercrombie, left, chairman of the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce Beautification Committee, and William Postles, right, executive director of the chamber. The beautification project is a three-way effort among local businesses, city, and state government to spruce up the entrances to Salisbury and create a good first impression, Postles said. Similar plantings grace two other entrances to the city. The Beautification Committee has raised $1,800 for the work. (Times Photo by Louise Ash)

Save The Bay

8/4/86

These members of the Maryland Conservation Corps are at work on an erosion control project on the Wicomico River at Salisbury with stones enmeshed in wire caging. It is a Department of Natural Resources program under the Governor's Plan to Save the Chesapeake Bay, with funding assistance from the Lower Shore Private Industry Council. Shown above, from left, are: Bessie Taylor of Snow Hill, crew chief, and Ruben Collins, Leon Bookers and Mike Bednar, all of Salisbury.

'Friends' Plan Appreciation Day For Zoo

SALISBURY — The annual Zoo Appreciation Day will be held Sept. 6 from noon to 4 p.m. in the Salisbury Zoological Park.

While this event is held as one of the Friends of the Salisbury Zoo fund raisers each year, the most important aspect of the special day is to get as many people as possible to visit the zoo and show their support for the fine zoological park.

Several weeks ago, the world population reached the five billion mark, and it is expected to double in the next 35 years. With such rapid population growth, there is less and less space remaining for the wild animal kingdom, according to the Friends group. It is of vital importance that zoos and animal conservation parks gain public support to help animals survive and reproduce. At the Salisbury zoo, the young of several endangered species, such as the spectacled bears, have been breed and raised.

Featured at this year's Zoo Appreciation Day will be food of all kinds, music, tours and various other events.

In addition, anyone interested in volunteering to help man a booth or serve food, or who would like to become a member of the Friends of the Salisbury Zoo, call Sandy Romblad, 742-3087, after 5 p.m on weekdays, or on the weekend.

Pumping Station Work Approved

8/20/86

SALISBURY — The Wicomico County Council, acting as the Urban Services Commission, approved an initial $300 cost for the installation of a malfunction detection device at the Cherokee Pumping Station.

According to county public works director Delbert Davis the pumping station recently malfunctioned, causing a spill into Tony Tank Creek. He said the device would detect the malfunction before a spill occurred.

The council also approved the $20 a month cost for the telephone line between the pumping station and the sewage treatment plant.

Utility Project Moving Ahead

8/26/86

SALISBURY — The $2.4 million Wicomico County and Salisbury Route 13 corridor water, sewer and storm drainage project moved ahead Monday as the city council passed for the the first reading a resolution to annex 482.7 acres known as the North 13 Annexation Area No. 2.

The land involved is bordered on the west by West Zion Road, the south side of Naylor Mill Road, the east side of Route 13; bordered on the north by the southerly boundary line of J. Roalnd Dashiell and Sons property; bordered on the east by the westerly boundary of Luois E. Brown property, Herman W. Parsons property, Mary E. Cannon property and Monroe S. Haltaman property, and bordered on the south by the state highway interchange.

Council Approves Annexation Request

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved a request for annexation of the "Faw property' adjacent to the Bell Farm along Pemberton Drive and the Wicomico River.

According to Thomas D. Plotts, city public works director, the property is proposed for development as a planned residential community for retirement-type homes and services. He said he recommends the annexation be allowed to proceed provided the property owners, Lola Rayner, Warren Boyce, Joyce Boyce, Betty Faw and Robert Faw, pay for the costs of water and sewer extensions, all related improvements to the property, the cost of the city solicitor to draw up the resolution and the cost of advertising the resolution. 8/12/86

Council Mulls Forest Lakes Annexation 8/13/86

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved a request by Forest Lake Estates residents to proceed with annexation within city limits of the final phase of the development.

According to property owner Michael Weisner, joint owners of about 13 acres of land at the north end of Emerson Avenue would like to be annexed into the city limits. He said the land, which is unimproved, is the expanded area of the development already annexed to the city.

Thomas D. Plotts, city public works director, recommended the annexation provided the property owners pay for the cost of water and sewer extensions, the cost of street, street lighting and storm drainage improvements, the cost of advertising the resolution for annexation as well s the cost of the city solicitor's drawing up of the resolution.

Annexation Of Farm Is Considered

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved a request by the Eastland Development Company to seek annexation of the Aydelotte Farm, north of Old Ocean City Road.

Thomas D. Plotts, city public works director, recommended the annexation be allowed to go forward, providing the developer of the 197 acres pay for the cost of drawing up the resolution for annexation and the cost of advertising in addition to following the city's policies regarding water and sewer extensions and the associated services.

Council Considers Annexing Center

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved the second reading of a resolution annexing the West Salisbury Shopping Center.

Council president said the proposed annexation presented problems concerning easements but the situation was resolved.

Salisbury Wicomico Planning Director William Livingston said the planning commission on Aug. 21 will offer its recommendation about rezoning the property bounded by the West Salisbury Parkway and in part by the State Highway Administration.

WeedBbusters 8/4/86

City Offers New Program to Aid Homeowners in Weed Control

By VALERIE DILLEHAY

Even though it may cost more, a new weed control program eliminating fines is worth it, say city officials, if it keeps the sidewalks clean and appeases angry Salisbury residents.

The revised weed control program recommended by the Salisbury Public Works Department and Bureau of Inspections was given unanimous approval by the city council at its meeting last Monday night.

"It always seemed that when the fine notices for weed control were sent out, every department in the city government would start getting more complaints. People got really dissatisfied with city government," explained Thomas Plotts, director of the Public Works Department.

Formerly, the city's Bureau of Inspections would notify the Public Works Department of residences found to be in non-compliance with the city code requiring home owners to keep sidewalks fronting their property free from weeds. The Public Works Department would then send notices by certified mail to the homeowners warning them about the legal infraction. This would be followed up by another city inspection. If weeds were still found among the cracks of the sidewalk, residents were given fines.

Do Something for People

Under the new program, residents will be notified of their noncompliance with the city code and urged to get rid of the weeds themselves. However, if they should fail to do so, the city will take care of it for them. "The program is to assist and not to remove the responsibility of the property owners," Plotts stressed.

His department has hired four full-time employees to handle the extra work weeding the sidewalks of negligent city residents. "The situation was getting out of hand. Too much money was being spent and the city sidewalks still were not free of weeds. The city was spending too much money in mailings each week for weed infractions," said Plotts. According to him, it will cost the city about $700 per week for the four extra employees to weed sidewalks. "The city was spending close to one-half of that in postage per week before, plus the five hours per day required of the city inspector," Plotts added.

During the estimated 20-week peak weed growing season each year, it may cost the city about $2,000 more to kill the unsightly weeds themselves. "It is still much better to do something for the people than to keep harping on them. It just made everyone's job more difficult," Plotts pointed out.

Priority Weeds

The new weed elimination program stipulates that the Bureau of Inspections will compile a prioritized list of areas which need attention. The list will be based on inspections by the Bureau and reports from residents. If residents maintain that they will not for some reason take care of the weed problem, then the sidewalk grasses will be sprayed with a non-discriminant herbicide. Both the Bureau of Inspections and the Public Works Department stated that even though they do intend to respond to citizen's and resident's complaints, "we would like to ask that the office not be deluged with calls requesting that particular streets be done first," department officials told council members Monday night.

"We recognize that there are those situations where the resident is either physically unable to comply or simply does not care to comply. This program is seen as a more responsive attack on the problem than the previous notification and enforcement routine," city officials stated further.

243 Seedy Sidewalks

Gary L. Hill, assistant director of the Bureau of Inspections, said that the list of areas needing attention has not yet been compiled. The city is currently responding to requests to eliminate the sidewalk grasses on a complaint basis. "So far, so good. We have been trying to get the owners to take of the weeds themselves, but if they don't, we tell the Deparment of Public Works, and they take care of the weeds for them," Hill said.

It's still much better to do something for the people than to keep harping on them

According to him, 243 notices of non-compliance with the city's weed ordinance were sent out during the past three months.

"The sidewalks will still not be kept the same way I would want my sidewalk to look, but for renters who may not really care or the elderly who can't do the weeding themselves, I think this ordinance will help," Plotts noted.

He said that the program's success will not be determined until October when the city has a chance to assess its cost and effectiveness. "We will go back and look at what we did and decide then if the program should be continued," Plotts commented.

Mayor of Salisbury, Paul Martin, said the program had his full support. "The inspections and mailings were taking up way too much time. Hopefully, this program will lighten the load on the city inspections bureau and free up men to do the housing and building inspections," Mayor Martin noted. He added that because the program had gotten a late start this year, it may not be as successful as it would have been had it been established earlier in the season. "The program is not completely bug-free yet, but hopefully by next year we will begin to see positive results," Martin said. Revenues realized from the $35 fines for non-compliance with the city's weed ordinance were too minimal to be considered in formulating the new program, Mayor Martin explained.

The city weed ordinance has been in place since 1960.

Reader Unhappy With Weed Law

Editor Of The Times:

I seriously doubt that home owners and landlords are not aware of the law that states that grass and weeds should be removed from their sidewalks.

They just choose to ignore it. Now the city is going to spend $700 per week to do it for them. Isn't that nice?

For $700 per week two more inspectors could be hired.

I see no mention in any of the newspaper articles that the offenders will be charged for this service. In other words, the taxpayers who do have pride in their property and do obey the law are paying for those who do not!

I do not particularly enjoy going out on a hot summer day, getting down on my hands and knees and with putty knife in hand, digging out weeds and grass on my sidewalk, but I do it to obey the law and because I have pride in my property and consider the neighbors who have to look and live around my home.

If I were not able to do it I would hire someone so he could. The day I can't keep my yard and the exterior of my home properly, is the day I move into a condo or apartment.

There is a responsibility in home ownership to the neighborhood. Landlords of rental property certainly make enough money in rent and tax breaks to hire people to keep their property properly.

Why in the past have offenders been given two notices? I say, fine them on the spot — experience is a wonderful teacher!

If you run a red light you're not given a warning, you get a ticket. What's the difference? A law is a law.

Bunty Reid
Salisbury

City To Spend $16,000 To Rewire Marina

9/24/86

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Marina Monday received a $16,000 allocation for rewiring from the Salisbury City Council.

According to Public Works Director Thomas D. Plotts, the city marina committee has determined that the marina's wiring for 208 volts will not accommodate larger boats needing 240 volts.

Plotts said the Baltimore electrical engineering firm Ross, Murphy and Finkelstein had told the city that the lesser voltage would be both appropriate and less expensive. He told the council the city approved the project which may make it difficult to hold the firm accountable.

Calling the situation "unfortunate," Plotts said the city could "point fingers" in many directions including at himself but, at this point, should just get on with the rewiring.

Council members were told that the marina already had difficulty accommodating larger boats. Council President Norman Conway said, regardless of how many boats already experienced difficulty, the present wiring would pose a future potential loss.

Councilman Robin Cockey said the city should determine the source responsible for suggesting the voltage and see whether it also is a possible source of funding.

THE $16,000 needed for the project, of which Plotts said about $13,000 would be spent for the rewiring and the remainder for expanding electrical services, was allocated by the council from the 1984 bond issue used for the city's Market Project.

City Executive Officer Patrick J. Fennell said the bond issue's remaining $96,500 funds were being used to purchase two remaining West Side Lake Street properties for the project. He said the land acquisition project would continue, despite the use of bond issue funds for the rewiring, through the city's sale of property over the next few months to developers.

Had the city wired for 240 volts from the onset of the marina project, Plotts said, the project would have cost more than the city is paying now even with the rewiring costs.

Marina committee members, according to Plotts, are not electrical engineers and could not have known what voltage would be needed to accommodate large boats. He said "it was a learning experience for me and a little bit of an embarrassment."

It is a possibility that the electrical engineering firm will at least split the cost of the rewiring, Plotts said, because the city could possibly sue the firm for recommending inappropriate wiring.

Reader Opposes Marina Project

Editor Of The Times:

I read the article concerning the changes in personnel associated with the "marina" project with a great deal of interest. I firmly believe that this is the time for the people of Salisbury to decide if this project is worth continuing. For your consideration, I offer the following points.

The cost of the project is the first point to consider. I have just recently read news reports that the city has spent several hundred thousand dollars acquiring property related to the marina.

Admittedly, there are several other factors involved, not the least of which is the impending loss of federal revenue sharing funds. I do not know if the city will be expending addditional city funds on the marina. I do know that as a taxpayer, I would be happier if the city were to spend its monies on the curbs and sidewalks we need and not on a marina.

The second point to consider is the proposed marina's geographic location on the Wicomico River. It will be at a very narrow section which experiences fairly heavy barge traffic. Having both seen and been a part of the present boat traffic which occurs from the opposite bank, if this marina should succeed in drawing boats, you will have a situation which is literally "an accident waiting to happen."

Just imagine the potential if this accident involves a fully loaded fuel barge. It will make the fuel tank explosion which occurred in the mid-1970s seem quite tame by comparison.

The third point to consider is the proximity to the Perdue plant. Has anyone associated with this proposed marina and restaurant ever been through that area on a hot, muggy summer afternoon? It just plain smells bad.

As someone who once lived in an apartment just down river, I can tell you the odor doesn't do a lot for your appetite. I can't imagine being just a "stone's throw away" and trying to eat something. Does the city plan to ask Mr. Perdue to close his facility? Does the city plan to buy this facility? I would bet that the plant is too profitable for either event.

I remember that not too long ago the city was ever so proud of this large aluminum object it had placed downtown on the plaza. Everyone sang the praises of this art object. Now, no one can find a place to move this recycling reject to.

Is the marine project going to be our next mistake to correct, or hide, in about 20 years? I firmly believe so; what's your opinion?

Lawrence C. Robinson
Salisbury

He's Dockmaster For The Port of Salisbury Marina

By BRICE STUMP
Times Farm Writer

10-13-86

SALISBURY — He's the newest dockmaster on the Chesapeake Bay, and he's in charge of the Port of Salisbury Marina.

Eric Hastings, 23, supervises life at the port, which opened this summer, taking care of the two-basin facility that can accommodate 55 boats, from small ones to yachts up to 60 feet long.

As the marina's only full-time, year-round employee, Hastings said the job keeps him busy. "I handle security, maintenance, govern the boat slips, pump gas, cut grass and keep the place neat," he said.

The marina, the newest in the Chesapeake Bay area, is a fully secure, full facility site, with electric, water, fuel and a sewage pump-out station. Hastings controls the marina from the second floor of the dockmaster's office.

He calls the second floor office and living quarter combination the "penthouse," which affords a unobstructed view of the entire grounds, dock and slips of the marina.

The 24-foot square office contains a kitchen, bathroom and shower, and a combination living room and bedroom.

"It's a great job, and the living quarters are great. I'm pretty much my own boss, and so far everything here has run very smoothly, no problems at all during the entire summer," Hastings said.

In addition to watching the grounds and keeping an eye on the boats, Hastings is on call 24 hours a day.

"Last week one of the boat captains coming into the marina woke me up at 4 a.m. to let me know he was taking a slip. But that doesn't happen much, there is very little traffic at night," the dockmaster said.

Hastings said qualifications for the $13,620 a year city job included a management background, a knowledge of boats and an applicant capable of handling security.

For Hastings, the job was tailor-made. He's handled phases of restaurant management, worked as a "bouncer," construction worker and as a body building instructor. As for the love of boats and working on the water, Hastings filled the bill. For years he has worked on the water, crabbing in the summer and oystering in the fall and winter. A background teaching aerobic dancing has even afforded the dockmaster an edge in agility and speed as he handles the variety of chores on his job. "I think I have found a home here," he said.

In his spare time the dockmaster also sells shirts with the Port of Salisbury logo, pennants and ice.

"In the summer it was busy here, and great working outdoors. The winter will be slower, but there are always things to do. The job is unique because the dockmaster has so many different kinds of jobs, from policing the marina to selling ice. But it's great," Hastings said.

DOCKMASTER HASTINGS. Eric Hastings of Salisbury is the first dockmaster of the new Port of Salisbury Marina, and he oversees the entire marina operation. (Times Photo by Brice Stump)

Growth Seen In Wicomico

17 Subdivisions Added

10/5/86

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Wicomico County's population growth is continuing at an average of 1 percent a year, according to county Planning and Zoning Director William Livingston. The growth, which is more active than in most Eastern Shore counties, is exemplified by the addition of 17 new subdivisions during six months of 1985.

The 17 subdivisions were given approval or tentative approval by the county planning commission from August to December 1985, according to a report recently released by Livingston's office. According to the report, the subdivisions represent a possible increase in county population of about 1,075 people.

Of the 485 acres involved, 31.3 percent are located in the county's metro-core area and 68.7 percent are outside this area. While the metro-core is usually considered the key growth area of a county because it is designated as a city's suburban area, according to Livingston, the trend during the 1985 period showed that suburban-oriented people are attracted to subdivisions in more rural surroundings.

IN THE FIRST seven months of 1985, 86.4 percent of the 1,417 acres of subdivisions approved during the 1985 January-to-July period also was outside the metro-core area. Livingston said, however, that the trend of subdivisions approved in 1986 is moving back toward the metro-core.

The majority of subdivisions documented in the August through December report are clustered in an area southwest of Salisbury, with six subdivisions outside the metro-core and five within the metro-core. The remaining six subdivisions are scattered throughout the county, with one located in the north-east portion of the metro-core.

While the new development will increase the county's tax base, it also will affect such county services as schools, roads and police protection. Livingston said such subdivision reports document county development and provide warning bells when impacts on the county are becoming too great.

"Sometime in the future," Livingston said, "the county will have to bite the bullet and take a stronger role in directing growth that will stretch the service network."

THE 13 SUBDIVISIONS on the west side of Route 13, according to the report, account for 250 lots on a total of 290.4 acres. If these lots are developed into single-family residences, the report predicts, the county's population could increase by 680 people, an additional 3.4 acres of recreational lands will be needed, and 1,500 more vehicle trips per day could be generated, as well as 2,380 pounds of solid waste per day and 68,000 gallons of water and sewage.

The remaining four subdivisions on the east side of the highway account for 145 lots on a 195.8 acres. According to the report, these subdivisions could result in 394 additional residents, a need for an additional 1.97 acreas of recreational lands and the generation of 870 more vehicle trips per day as well as 1,379 pounds of solid waste per day and 39,440

(See GROWTH, page A3)

(Continued from page A1)

gallons of water and sewer.

The impact on the county school system is a possible increase of 226 students.

What the growth shows newcomers to the area, Livingston said, is that Wicomico is a "major activity center" on the Shore. He said a particular attraction of the area is that it is growing in job opportunities, as proven by a continued growth in the productive age category of 20 to the mid-40s.

WHILE THAT AGE group is attracted by job opportunities in the county, new businesses also are attracted by such a labor force. "That age group is essential for industrial expansion" Livingston said.

"In terms of population, the county has an excellent age mix," he said, adding that if a population is heavy on either end of the age scale, it is difficult to provide needed services.

For instance, Livingston said, the elderly often do not want to fund services they have funded for most of their life, while a large population of children means a dependent population rather than one that is providing revenues for services.

Livingston said the subdivision development has reflected the growth patterns in the county by providing large, single-family homes suited to the needs of the productive age group. No real effort has been aimed at the housing needs of the retired community, he added, as this population group has not yet been a prime target market.

City Council Report

Route 13 North; Annexation 2

Dozens of interested citizens turned out for the Council's deliberation of the final reading of the proposed annexation of property off Route 13 North. The area to be annexed, one of the largest in the city's history, takes in approximately 400 acres beginning at West Zion Road and running north to the Roland Dashiell & Sons building, south of Dagsboro Road. It lies on the east side of Route 13 with the exception of the Delmarva Power & Light property on its west side.

The cost of providing services to the area, which will be between 2.5 and 3 million dollars, is to be jointly borne by the city and county. The land is primarlily intended to be developed as a commerical strip along Route 13. In the 400 acre annexation, with the exception of streets, no land has been ear-marked for public facilities such as schools, libraries or recreational areas.

The area has been more and more heavily developed in recent years and is the site of several large motels and a large trailer park. The ability of the ground to absorb sewage has been strained, and a health problem has developed which necessitates sewering. "The purpose of this (annexation) is not to cause hardship for anyone," Public Works Director Thomas D. Plotts said to the group. "The purpose is to solve a problem. A health problem. The area must be sewered."

A group of retired citizens complained to the Council, that they could not easily afford the expense of sewering. (The average-sized lot within the annexed area will be assessed approximately $1,500 for the sewer hookup). One of that group, Mr. J. A. Barnett, suggested the health problem existed because the county had allowed the area to become overdeveloped. If large corporations were developing the land for profit, they should bear the cost of serving it with water and sewer, he said. "Now, all of us little people are getting shoved into something that's going to be a hardship for us. We don't mind paying our fair share. In the summer time the whole area stinks. But, heck, I can just barely make my car payments."

Several businessmen, who own property in the area to be annexed, approached the Council in favor of the annexation. They indicated they would like to develop more land north of Salisbury.

The Council passed the annexation unanimously. Barring any unexpected court challenges, the annexation is expected to take effect on or before January 1, 1987. Water, sewer and storm drain improvements are expected to be under construction by March 1987 and completed by September 1987. Other city services such as garbage collection, police and fire services will be available upon the effective date of the annexation.

Vote On Growth Project Sought

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The Route 13 North Annexation joint project between the city and the county is being impeded by residents of the area calling for a referendum.

Following the City Council's first ordinance reading approval Monday of the area's rezoning, Public Works Director Thomas Plotts said the city received a petition carrying 95 signatures last Friday which calls for the annexation to be decided by referendum.

Plotts said the city is in the process of determining whether the petition's signatures are valid registered resident voters. He said such a petition must carry 20 percent of the registered residents voters in the area to be annexed.

Plotts said residents wanting a referendum have 45 days following the annexation resolution's public hearing to petition the city. That 45 days, he said, expire Thursday.

WHILE 350 residents are located in the proposed annexed area of more than 400 acres, Plotts said, it is not known how many are registered voters and he expects only about 60 to be registered. He said the petition's signatures and the voting rolls are currently being compared.

Should the petition carry the valid amount of appropriate names, Plotts said the city and the Board of Supervisors of Elections will prepare for a vote . If it does not, he said, the council's approval of the project will stand.

Plotts said he doesn't know why the residents are against the annexation except that he "has to believe that there is some misinformation out there and the residents are not fully informed to the

(See VOTE, page 19)

collection. If the residents received these services through an urban services district, he said, property owners would have to pay the more than $1 million cost.

The property owners of the area do not have a voice in the matter of the petition or a vote on the referendum unless they are registered resident voters, Plotts said. He did say the motel and restaurant industries in the area, longtime proponents of the annexation, are not happy with this latest development.

Whether residents can be persuaded that the annexation is beneficial is a question that may have to be decided by a vote and Plotts said "it's going to take a grass-roots campaign to get the information across to them."

Plotts said the call for a referendum has not deterred the city from proceeding with the project. He said the ordinance for the zoning of the area will proceed accordingly, with the public hearing scheduled for the council's next meeting on Dec. 22.

The public works director did say he is hopeful that, even with a referendum, the project will be accepted by the majority of the residents.

Annexation Vote Planned

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Route 13 North residents have succeeded in their call for a referendum to determine whether the 400-acre area is annexed to Salisbury for the purpose of the city and county's joint $1.4 million water and sewer project.

According to city Public Works Director Thomas Plotts, the 95-name petition proved to have the signatures of 50 valid registered voter residents. He said these names met the required 20 percent of what was determined to be 100 to 110 registered resident voters in the area.

Plotts said it will be up to the City Council to determine when the election will be held. He said the referendum must be advertised twice, two weeks apart with the election being held a minimum of 30 days and a maximum of 90 days following the last advertisement.

Despite the referendum, Plotts said the council will proceed with the zoning ordinance slated for second reading Dec. 22. He said zoning approval will be contingent upon annexation and construction of the new sewer and water system also will move ahead as scheduled.

WHILE residents have opposed the project because they fear the hookup and front-foot assessment costs will force them to sell their properties, Plotts said "the question is not whether they will have the services but who will pay for them and in what fashion."

The other alternative to annexation, Plotts said is forming an urban services district for the area. Under this plan, he said, the property owners must reimburse the county for the entire cost of providing the service as well as the city's engineering costs of about $300,000.

Under the annexation plan, Plotts said, the city and county will pay the $1.4 million and property owners only will have to pay front-foot assessments and hookup fees. Under the annexation's requirements, residents have five years to tie into the system while new development must tie in at the time of construction.

Should the state health deartment call for a public system in the area, Plotts said, the county will have no choice but to institute some way of providing service. The reason the annexation project was first proposed because of failing private septic systems in

(See VOTE, page 16)

12/16/86

Route 13 Annexation 2

12/31/86

At its meeting on Monday, December 22, the Salisbury City Council repealed a recently passed resolution to annex 482 acres along Route 13 North. The annexation, known as the Route 13 North Annexation #2 (Resolution #291), was opposed by residents of the Salisbury Mobile Home Park who collected enough signatures to force a referendum on the annexation (50% of the area's registered voters). The annexation had been approved at the Council meeting of October 27th 1986. State law mandates a 45 day period after an annexation's approval for the public to present opposition. On the 42nd day after the approval, the city received the petition from the Mobile Home Park residents forcing a referendum.

According to Thomas D. Plotts, director of Salisbury's Department of Public Works, the time and expense involved in organizing a referendum is roughly equal to the time and expense the city would occur in drawing up a new annexation proposal. The new proposal, which Plotts is recommending, will consist of 3 separate areas to be annexed, and will exclude those residential areas opposed to inclusion in the city.

The Council at its meeting also voted down Ordinance 1404, the proposed zoning for the Route 13 North Annexation #2. That area is approximately 482 acres of land planned as a commercial corridor, flanking both sides of Route 13, running north of the U.S. Route 13 Bypass and south of the J. Roland

Route 50 Annexation

12/23/86

Director of Public Works Thomas D. Plotts recommended that the City finance the extension of services across Route 50 to the proposed Annexation #3 area. The area comprises approximately 150 acres across Route 50 from the Shoppers World shopping center. Plotts, in a memorandum to the Mayor, mentioned that a number of developers were waiting to move in once services were guaranteed. At least one developer showed up at the Council meeting.

The city was holding out for the Motor Vehicle Administration to develop the area, where the MVA had expressed an interest in property. Because that development is not materializing, however, the recommendation is for the City to take over the project.

Mayor Paul Martin suggested that the project be taken on because, in the long run, it would be less expensive than making payments to the MVA for use of services the MVA developed. Mr. Plotts felt the city should undertake the project, because the delay in extending services to the area might cause planned projects to fail. Plotts estimates the city will have to borrow approximately $400,000 to support the cost of the project.

City Council Report

12/3/86

Route 50 Annexation

After a final hearing on the proposed annexation of over 220 acres of land off Route 50 across from Shopper's World Shopping Center, the Council passed the annexation at its meeting on Monday, November 24th. The city will bear the expense of extending sewer and water across Route 50 at an expense of aproximately $500,000. The Front Footage Assesments for the first major developement planned in the area promise and income of $160,000 leaving $340,000 to be put up by the city. Salisbury's Director of Finance indicated in a memo to Mayor W. Paul Martin that the funds available including unappropriated surplus monies totaled over $600,000. The monies spent by the city will eventually be recouped, as developers move into the area and future residents are assessed.

Harbor Pointe

The Council deliberated a proposed Planned Residential District known as Harbor Pointe. The project consists of 279 acres south of Pemberton Drive, adjacent to the Wicomico River and immediately south of the City's Sewage Treatment Plant. The Planning and Zoning Commission has given Provisional Approval for the PRD proposed by developers Henry Hanna and Jack Causey. The Council was being asked to review the project and make recommendations prior to the developers incurring the costs implied in the civil engineering required to apply for the next step in the PRD process, a Preliminary Development Plan.

There are several reasons why the developers should want to see how the city would react to the proposals in their Outline Development Plan. The developers, who are requesting their own sewer, water and street systems, are building in the proximity of an abandoned sludge lagoon that was part of the city's sewage treatment plant. Mayor W. Paul Martin questioned the advisability of this, pointing out that if future developers were to drill their own wells, a 'Love Canal' situation could develop. He suggested that no private wells be allowed in the area.

William Livingston, Salisbury Wicomico Planning Director, noted in a memo to the Council that there were other possible objections to Harbor Pointe. One was the advisability of changing the current Industrial zoning of the property, which is the last tract of vacant industrially-zoned land in the city.

Councilman Robin Cockey questioned discussing the development at all, until the Council had a final set of plans before it which had been screened and approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Growth Seen In Wicomico

17 Subdivisions Added

10/5/86

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

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(See GROWTH, page A3)

(Continued from page A1)

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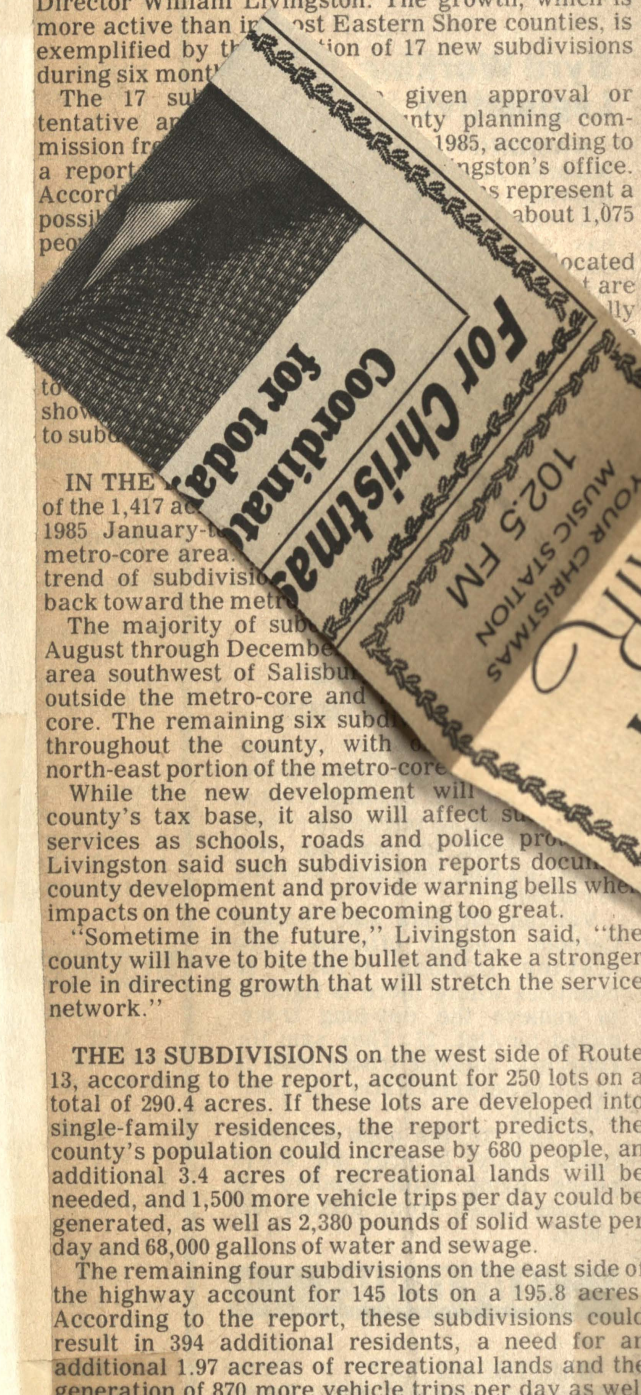

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(Continued from page 1)

picture."

While some residents did protest the annexation during the public hearing Oct. 27 and were invited to talk with city officials about the project, according to Plotts, he said no one came forward to discuss the plans and the annexation requirements of the residents.

At that time, residents said some property owners will have to sell their land because of the hookup costs and front foot assessments. Plotts said, at that time, the city will charge $7.75 a foot per single-family dwelling for each utility, $15.50 a foot for each multi-family or commercial property and $1,500 for water and sewer hookup for the average household.

PLOTTS said Monday the residents do not seem to realize the city and county's joint $1.4 million project will provide them with better services than they currently have with on-site water and sewer systems, as well as city trash collection. If the residents received these services through an urban services district, he said, property owners would have to pay the more than $1 million cost.

The property owners of the area do not have a voice in the matter of the petition or a vote on the referendum unless they are registered resident voters, Plotts said. He did say the motel and restaurant industries in the area, longtime proponents of the annexation, are not happy with this latest development.

Whether residents can be persuaded that the annexation is beneficial is a question that may have to be decided by a vote and Plotts said "it's going to take a grass-roots campaign to get the information across to them."

Plotts said the call for a referendum has not deterred the city from proceeding with the project. He said the ordinance for the zoning of the area will proceed accordingly, with the public hearing scheduled for the council's next meeeting on Dec. 22.

The public works director did say he is hopeful that, even with a referendum, the project will be accepted by the majority of the residents.

Annexation Vote Planned

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Route 13 North residents have succeeded in their call for a referendum to determine whether the 400-acre area is annexed to Salisbury for the purpose of the city and county's joint $1.4 million water and sewer project.

According to city Public Works Director Thomas Plotts, the 95-name petition proved to have the signatures of 50 valid registered voter residents. He said these names met the required 20 percent of what was determined to be 100 to 110 registered resident voters in the area.

Plotts said it will be up to the City Council to determine when the election will be held. He said the referendum must be advertised twice, two weeks apart with the election being held a minimum of 30 days and a maximum of 90 days following the last advertisement.

Despite the referendum, Plotts said the council will proceed with the zoning ordinance slated for second reading Dec. 22. He said zoning approval will be contingent upon annexation and construction of the new sewer and water system also will move ahead as scheduled.

WHILE residents have opposed the project because they fear the hookup and front-foot assessment costs will force them to sell their properties, Plotts said "the question is not whether they will have the services but who will pay for them and in what fashion."

The other alternative to annexation, Plotts said is forming an urban services district for the area. Under this plan, he said, the property owners must reimburse the county for the entire cost of providing the service as well as the city's engineering costs of about $300,000.

Under the annexation plan, Plotts said, the city and county will pay the $1.4 million and property owners only will have to pay front-foot assessments and hookup fees. Under the annexation's requirements, residents have five years to tie into the system while new development must tie in at the time of construction.

Should the state health deartment call for a public system in the area, Plotts said, the county will have no choice but to institute some way of providing service. The reason the annexation project was first proposed because of failing private septic systems in

(See VOTE, page 16)

12/16/86

Route 13 Annexation 2

12/31/86

At its meeting on Monday, December 22, the Salisbury City Council repealed a recently passed resolution to annex 482 acres along Route 13 North. The annexation, known as the Route 13 North Annexation #2 (Resolution #291), was opposed by residents of the Salisbury Mobile Home Park who collected enough signatures to force a referendum on the annexation (50% of the area's registered voters). The annexation had been approved at the Council meeting of October 27th 1986. State law mandates a 45 day period after an annexation's approval for the public to present opposition. On the 42nd day after the approval, the city received the petition from the Mobile Home Park residents forcing a referendum.

According to Thomas D. Plotts, director of Salisbury's Department of Public Works, the time and expense involved in organizing a referendum is roughly equal to the time and expense the city would occur in drawing up a new annexation proposal. The new proposal, which Plotts is recommending, will consist of 3 separate areas to be annexed, and will exclude those residential areas opposed to inclusion in the city.

The Council at its meeting also voted down Ordinance 1404, the proposed zoning for the Route 13 North Annexation #2. That area is approximately 482 acres of land planned as a commercial corridor, flanking both sides of Route 13, running north of the U.S. Route 13 Bypass and south of the J. Roland

Route 50 Annexation

12/12/86

Director of Public Works Thomas D. Plotts recommended that the City finance the extension of services across Route 50 to the proposed Annexation #3 area. The area comprises approximately 150 acres across Route 50 from the Shoppers World shopping center. Plotts, in a memorandum to the Mayor, mentioned that a number of developers were waiting to move in once services were guaranteed. At least one developer showed up at the Council meeting.

The city was holding out for the Motor Vehicle Administration to develop the area, where the MVA had expressed an interest in property. Because that development is not materializing, however, the recommendation is for the City to take over the project.

Mayor Paul Martin suggested that the project be taken on because, in the long run, it would be less expensive than making payments to the MVA for use of services the MVA developed. Mr. Plotts felt the city should undertake the project, because the delay in extending services to the area might cause planned projects to fail. Plotts estimates the city will have to borrow approximately $400,000 to support the cost of the project.

City Council Report

12/3/86

Route 50 Annexation

After a final hearing on the proposed annexation of over 220 acres of land off Route 50 across from Shopper's World Shopping Center, the Council passed the annexation at its meeting on Monday, November 24th. The city will bear the expense of extending sewer and water across Route 50 at an expense of aproximately $500,000. The Front Footage Assesments for the first major developement planned in the area promise and income of $160,000 leaving $340,000 to be put up by the city. Salisbury's Director of Finance indicated in a memo to Mayor W. Paul Martin that the funds available including, unappropriated surplus monies totaled over $600,000. The monies spent by the city will eventually be recouped, as developers move into the area and future residents are assessed.

Harbor Pointe

The Council deliberated a proposed Planned Residential District known as Harbor Pointe. The project consists of 279 acres south of Pemberton Drive, adjacent to the Wicomico River and immediately south of the City's Sewage Treatment Plant. The Planning and Zoning Commission has given Provisional Approval for the PRD proposed by developers Henry Hanna and Jack Causey. The Council was being asked to review the project and make recommendations prior to the developers incurring the costs implied in the civil engineering required to apply for the next step in the PRD process, a Preliminary Development Plan.

There are several reasons why the developers should want to see how the city would react to the proposals in their Outline Development Plan. The developers, who are requesting their own sewer, water and street systems, are building in the proximity of an abandoned sludge lagoon that was part of the city's sewage treatment plant. Mayor W. Paul Martin questioned the advisability of this, pointing out that if future developers were to drill their own wells, a 'Love Canal' situation could develop. He suggested that no private wells be allowed in the area.

William Livingston, Salisbury Wicomico Planning Director, noted in a memo to the Council that there were other possible objections to Harbor Pointe. One was the advisability of changing the current Industrial zoning of the property, which is the last tract of vacant industrially-zoned land in the city.

Councilman Robin Cockey questioned discussing the development at all, until the Council had a final set of plans before it which had been screened and approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

City Limits

7/30/86

Planned Annexation Along North 13 Promises Commercial Boom for Area

By VALERIE DILLEHAY

Make way Delmarva, Salisbury is expanding.

With two new motels proposed for the Route 13 corridor north of Salisbury and an extension of the nearby Northwood Industrial Park in the works, city officials are gearing up for serious commercial and industrial development in that area within the next few years.

Expansion will require one of the largest annexations of county land by the city ever.

Because the growing number of businesses on Rt. 13 just north of Salisbury are on septic tank systems and therefore support a limited capacity of waste disposal, there is mounting concern for public health. Local and state health officials have joined the area businesses in calling for the city water and sewage services annexation would provide.

"We need the city's sewer and water systems. The life of the corridor is stifled without it," explained Jenny Sillers, sales and marketing coordinator for Days Inn of Salisbury, located on Route 13 north. She pointed out that the septic tank and well water systems will not accomodate any further development in the area.

Annexation Will Occur

An estimated 100,000 gallons of wastewater is generated each day by businesses along the Route 13 corridor north of Salisbury, according to Ed Pinto, director of Environmental Health for the Wicomico County Health Department. "That is a massive quantity to handle on the current system if there isn't suitable or adequate land," Pinto said. In most cases, the land will not permit any expansion that would place an additional burden on the already taxed wastewater treatment systems.

"Motels and businesses, for the most part, aren't able to make any additions because of these limiting factors. City sewer and water services are greatly needed, and it looks reasonably optimistic that (annexation) will occur," he added.

Motels scheduled to be constructed in the area include a Comfort Inn and an Econo Lodge.

A separate wastewater treatment facility has been planned by the Comfort Inn developers. The facility is being put in place as an interim measure pending the area's inclusion in the city's sewer and water system, according to Pinto.

Bond to the Rescue

"The area would be able to expand further, but without city sewer and water it won't happen," said William Livingston, director of Salisbury-Wicomico County Zoning and Planning Commission.

He noted that the Route 13 north corridor had emerged in recent years as a traveling center because of the intersection with another major highway artery, Route 50.

To pave the way for commerical and industrial development of the area the Salisbury City Council recently passed a $3.8 million bond issue. The bond issue package will provide funding for extension of city water and sewer services to the Route 13 north corridor estimated to cost $819,000. City officials also provided for development of the extension of the Northwood Industrial Park to Connolly Road with over $1 million in funding from the bond issue for extension of sewer and water services there.

Robert Kiley, executive director of Salisbury-Wicomico Economic Development Inc.(SWED), reported that the revenue generated from the existing industrial park located on Naylor Mill Road is "great." "It would be to (the city's) advantage to extend their services for the proposed Connolly Road Industrial Park," he pointed out.

Absolutely a Need

SWED has served as the organizing force behind the industrial park and is actively promoting its proposed extension to Connolly Road. BTR Realty in Salisbury has a one year option on the development of the property slated for the park's expansion. "We have received tremendous cooperation from everyone. There is absolutely a need for an expanded park facility, and the sooner we get it going, the better off we'll be," Kiley said.

All of the land in the current industrial park facility has been sold or optioned, Kiley reported.

However, an inventory building provided for businesses in the park has not yet been filled.

The exact acreage proposed for the park's extension has not yet been determined. Thomas Plotts, director of public works for the City of Salisbury, explained that city officials were in the process of sorting out properties to be included in the annexation. Water and sewer facilities are scheduled to be extended soon after the annexation process is concluded. He estimated that such extensions may be underway by the spring of next year. "There is pressure to annex the area from local and state health officials who fear septic tank problems; especially from several existing and proposed motels along the corridor," Plotts said.

"It will represent tremendous growth of the city not only by area, but also by the commercial and industrial development that goes there," commented Mayor of Salisbury, Paul Martin. He pointed out the benefits of the proposed industrial park to the city's tax base. "It will open up the city to things we need to compliment its growth," Martin added. He agreed that city sewer and water facilities are essential to that growth.

"We have to look down the road at what is going to happen tomorrow. Without industrial development, the city is hard pressed to survive," said Martin.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SCHEDULED WATER MAIN FLUSHING

The Water Main flushing in Salisbury previously scheduled for Wednesday, November 19 thru Friday, November 21 will take place Saturday, November 22 thru Monday, November 24 between 8 P.M. and 4 A.M.

City of Salisbury
WATER DEPARTMENT

11/21/86

Salisbury To Flush Water System

Thomas C. Plotts, Director of Salisbury's Department of Public Works announced that the city has encountered considerable success with its semi-annual water main flushing program. By systematically flushing all public mains at approximately 750 hydrants, the water distribution system can be effectively cleared of most of the corrosion sediment which would otherwise find its way into the consumer's plumbing fixtures.

The flushing will take place between Monday, Novmeber 17th and Friday, November 21 this year. To minimize inconvenience, Mr. Plotts announced it will take place at night — ordinarily between 8:00pm and 4:00am. There will be no interruption of service while this is in progress, however, some discoloration of the water supply may be expected. If discoloration occurs, it should clear up quickly and clearing can be facilitated by letting a faucet run for a short while. If discoloration persists, citizens are requested to call the City Service Center at 548-3177.

Advertiser 11/13/86

NEWS IN BRIEF

11/21/86

Water Main Flushing In Salisbury Delayed

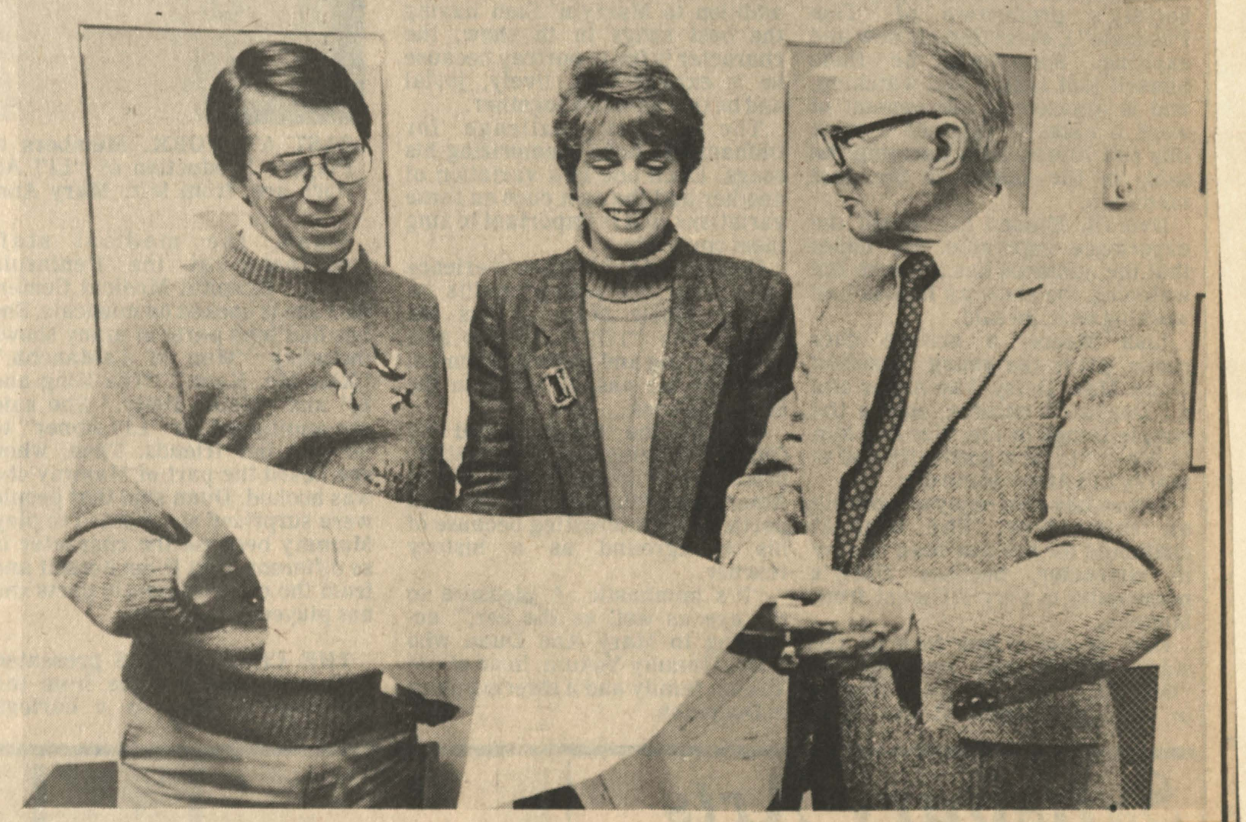
SALISBURY — The water main flushing in Salisbury previously scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 19, through Friday, Nov. 21, will take place Saturday, Nov. 22, through Monday, Nov. 24, between 8 p.m. and 4 a.m., according to a spokesman for the city's water department.

R/UDAT Group To Have New Director

SALISBURY — Jenifer Kajencki will assume the position of executive director of the R/UDAT Action Group Jan. 1. Kajencki will begin her orientation period Dec. 1 under the direction of Pete Cooper, who has held the position the last four years.

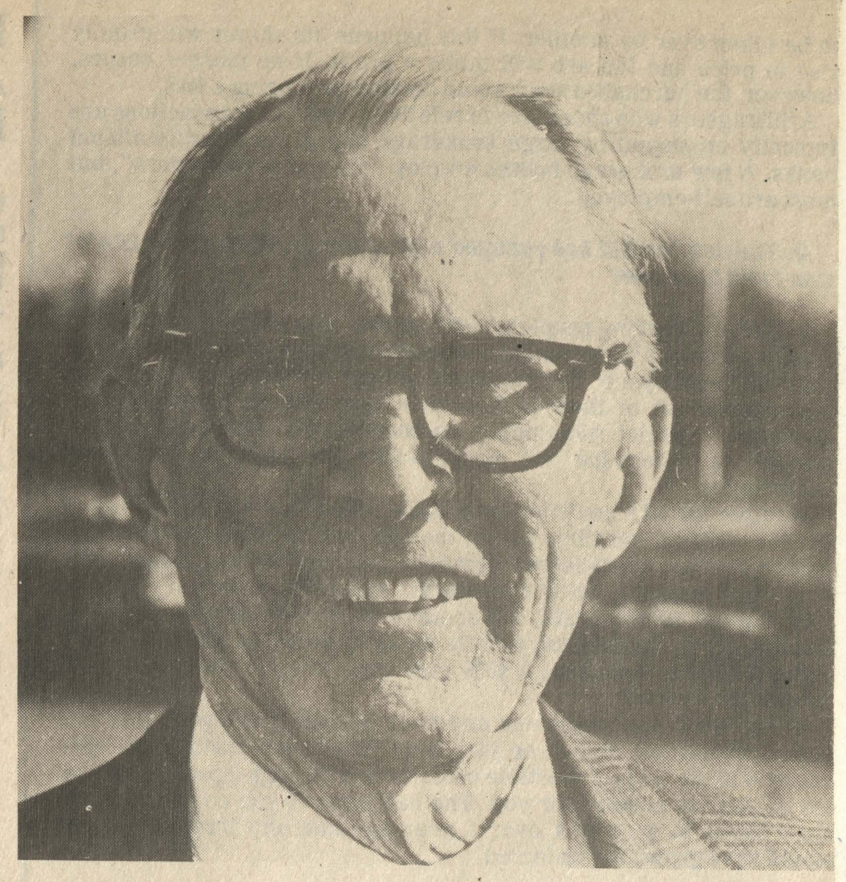
Kajencki earned a bachelor of science degree in engineering from Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pa. She held positions with oil industry firms in the Philadelphia area, with three years spent at Sun Oil and three years with Standard Oil. Maintenance engineering, troubleshooting and the planning of reliable refining methods were the areas in which Kajencki specialized.

Kajencki moved to the Delmarva peninsula with her husband, Dr. Paul Kajencki, when he accepted a position with the Somerset Medical Center in Princess Anne. The Kajenckis live in Whitehaven.



NEW DIRECTOR NAMED. Jenifer Kajencki, new director of the R/UDAT Action Group, is shown Salisbury's layout by Tom Plotts, left, Salisbury's director of public works, and Pete Cooper, right, retiring executive director of the R/UDAT Action Group. (Times Photo)

11/13/86



At the upper left is a photo taken in the early 1960's of Pete Cooper (right) and Grover Ruark of the Public Works Department. They are shown standing beside Salisbury's first motorized street sweeper. At the lower left is the plaque mounted along the Riverwalk Park in tribute to Mr. Cooper (above) and his many accomplishments.

After a Lifetime in Public Service, Pete Cooper Retires (Again)

By PETER KOLONIA

Few people can claim to have had the impact on Salisbury that Philip C. Cooper has had. In his twenty-six years at the helm of the Public Works Department and six years with the Downtown Revitalization Office, Cooper (known by his nickname, Pete) was vitally involved in many of the projects that shaped the way Salisbury looks and lives today: the Downtown Plaza, the Riverwalk park, and the Salisbury Zoo, are examples.

Mr. Cooper's recent retirement as director of the Downtown Revitalization Office has placed him and his distinguished career in the news once again. That career, which saw him serve under seven Salisbury mayors, began in the early 1930's when Cooper, fresh out of the University of Maryland with a Civil Engineering degree, accepted a job with the Maryland State Road Commision. While working on construction projects across the state, he climbed his way up the state's bureacratic ladder from inspector to chief inspector to resident engineer, until 1950 when when the Salisbury engineer's job became vacant. He remained in that position until his retirement in 1978. After several years as a private consultant, Cooper's career in public service resumed with his involvement in the Downtown Revitalization Office in 1980.

question," Cooper said, "is 'no', there was no one project which was more important than another," he said. "What was important to us in every undertaking was the approach. The planning. We always believed that quality was the only thing that made long term sense. We tried to get the best people, the best designs and the best materials.

"We also, with every project, built for the future. Where we could, we tried to set up an infrastructure that the city could grow into. We built so that Salisbury could more easily take on the role of a regional center for the Shore. Carrol Street and the Eastern Shore Drive are good examples. If we hadn't designed Carrol Street as we did, there's a good chance, the hospital might be located someplace else today."

Advice & Regrets

Mr. Cooper admits to only one regret concerning his years with the Public Works Department and the Downtown Revitalization Office, and that was his inability to "do anything positive on the West Side." The problems on the West Side of Salisbury, Cooper explained, allow no quick or easy solution. "There's never been enough money available to really attack such a comprehensive problem. The waterfront project gave us the opportunity to remove some of the negatives, but it hardly made a dent. The city, however, realizes the problem exists and they'll eventually get around to it. It's only a matter of time."

Does Mr. Cooper have any advice for his successors in public service? "Councils come and go,"

Continued on Page 20

Cooper Projects

The following are a few of the project to which Pete Cooper contributed:

- The Downtown Plaza
- The Route 50 Thruway
- The Discovery of the Paleo Channel
- The Parking Garage
- The Riverwalk
- Riverside Drive
- The Salisbury Zoo
- Carrol Street
- The Northwood Industrial Park
- Eastern Shore Drive
- South Division St. Bridge

from everyone. There is absolutely a need for an expanded park facility, and the sooner we get it going, the better off we'll be," Kiley said.

All of the land in the current industrial park facility has been

be extended soon after the annexation process is concluded. He estimated that such extensions may be underway by the spring of next year. "There is pressure to annex the area from local and state health officials who fear septic tank problems; especially from

facilities are essential to that growth.

"We have to look down the road at what is going to happen tomorrow. Without industrial development, the city is hard pressed to survive," said Martin.

Cooper Devotes Years To City

1/11/87

When Philip C. "Pete" Cooper retired recently as the manager of the Salisbury Downtown Revitalization plan he was honored at a luncheon. Mayor W. Paul Martin fell back on a 1978 newspaper article in *The Daily Times* to sum up his accomplishments.

The piece was written by Mike Meise, veteran staffer at the *Times*. He too has since retired. As a newspaperman he knew Cooper better than most people around. He said something like this in the article quoted by the mayor:

There is no need to erect a monument to Pete Cooper. His work in the development of this city is all around us.

And, indeed it is. As director of public works for the city he had major roles in the completion of U.S. Route 50 through Salisbury, the River Walk, the opening of major thoroughfares in Riverside Drive, Waverly Drive, Carroll Street and Eastern Shore Drive and the modernization of downtown with its unique plaza, and acres of new parking, including a parking garage.

He retired from the city in 1978, opened a consulting business from which he retired in 1980, then took on the revitalization of downtown, looking far beyond retailing. The project was known as RAG — Regional Action Group — based on a study known as R/UDAT which explored new horizons for the area.

His first two years with RAG were as a volunteer, then he became manager. Its latest project is the Port of Salisbury Marina. A new hotel, restaurant and other amenities as well as some apartment living for people who might like to live downtown are still ahead.

In a small city which was becoming a bigger one there was much to be done. Over the years Cooper's persuasive talent usually won over a budget-pinching city council. In brief remarks at the luncheon he said the revitalization program to date is a public awareness that downtown is indeed worth saving.

"We really are just beginning," he said. His successor, Jenifer Kajencki, who was present, is well aware of the challenges ahead. Cooper promised his continued service as a volunteer in a city he loves.

Scratch Pad
By DICK MOORE

People Patter

JOHN STEVENS, president of the Peninsula General Hospital Medical Center and chairman of the R/UDAT study group, organized the luncheon attended by more than 100 officials and friends. And Martin declared, "I've lost track of how many times Pete has retired, and there were times when I wished I could have fired him."

Martin went on, "he would never take no for an answer." And therein lies the secret of Cooper's accomplishments.

Stevens remarked that the revitalization program has resulted in "a sense of place" in regard to Salisbury. Many towns now have great shopping centers, but no downtown, no center of things.

He added, it is also the result of fine cooperation by city and Wicomico County elected officials. "Our 'establishment' has always been flexible," he added.

There were other testimonials and recollections. Joe Polio, a part-time employee of RAG, cited Cooper's persuasive talent and added, "We should have sent him to the Iceland summit. He could have gotten Reagan and Gorbachev together."

James P. Bailey, an attorney here, recalled a summer job in the 1940s when the northern end of Salisbury Boulevard was completed. He described the custom of workers and engineers who tossed their loose change into the last batch of concrete. It was poured at the intersection of Main Street and Salisbury Boulevard.

He got a laugh when he painted a ludicrous, though highly improbable picture of Cooper, then with the State Roads Commission, picking around in the concrete in the dead of night looking for those coins. He always knew how to take care of money.

William H. Ahtes, perhaps the catalyst in downtown revival, offered his compliments. Perhaps the most enduring compliment aside from the mayor's reference to "monuments," came from Sam Seidel, a retired city councilman. He could not be present, but his letter said:

"Pete Cooper has done more than anyone, living or dead, to advance this city."

IT SURELY is so. Picture what center city might look like today without his firm hand. The opening of Eastern Shore Drive is an example. It was a project he took to the council repeatedly, only to be told no.

Suddenly, with the hospital's vast expansion program, coming up it became necessary to close South Division Street, an unheard of idea at that time. But what about all the traffic which used Division Street?

The answer was Eastern Shore Drive. When the council said "yes," it was a classic example of "everything comes to he who waits."

Cooper and his wife, Dorothy, received a couple of pieces of pewter to remember his third retirement. He said he looks forward to some relaxation, but don't bet on it. Work is his relaxation.

City Revitalization Director Retiring

Pete Cooper Plans To Continue Assistance To Project

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — His deep-set eyes staring out into the distance, one can almost see the blueprint of Salisbury's future Philip C. "Pete" Cooper is drawing in his mind.

Retiring today as the Downtown Revitalization Office director after almost four years of service, with a banquet in his honor scheduled for Monday at Christoper's on the Plaza, Cooper avoids the normal platitudes usually given when retirement rolls around.

Instead, he is still thinking, breathing, living the revitalization of a city he watched and helped grow. Before a city charter shed light on the path, before residents saw the riverwalk wind through Salisbury as a model Open Space Program project and before the first bulkhead of the Salisbury marina was a vision leading to reality, Cooper was involved with the long process he hopes will one day evolve into the Eastern Shore's regional cultural center.

COOPER HAS been a part of that evolution for a few decades, having served as the city's public works director from 1950 to 1978. He retired from that position and became part of the Cooper and Plummer engineering consultant team which, along with the architectural firms of George, Miles and Buhr and Somers and Van Fossen, developed the Salisbury Downtown Revitalization plan.

It is not an accident that Cooper became involved with the growth of his native Salisbury having earned an engineering degree from the University of Maryland and having served 19 years with the Maryland State Roads Commission.

Cooper talks about the plans for the city as though it is at the beginning of the project, not the middle where ideas have already been transformed into concrete foundations. He leaves his desk to peruse maps, aerial views and architectural renderings, tracing red-taped lines of progress with his fingers.

He points out a new accomplishment in the scheme, or one that has laid the groundwork for others to come. He talks about what was and what can be, hoping the entire community will one day unite for a single purpose.

WITH THE holidays just behind him, Cooper is asked what three wishes he would like Santa to grant him. But three wishes are not enough, he replies, saying four might do the trick.

First, Cooper said, he would like to see the downtown Salisbury facade program develop toward a style and quality that cannot be found in the average mall setting. He also would like to see the area become more of a living community instead of concentrating on retail growth.

Cooper's second wish is for the redevelopment or reclaiming of the city's waterfront assets. He said the time has come when industry no longer uses the waterfront and he would like to see a different use, complete with hotel, attract a population of people interested more in the cultural and recreational aspect of the area.

The third wish is for the rededication to the needs of the westside community. If Salisbury is to succeed, he said, the westside also must succeed to bring the whole program to fruition.

"We're not just whistling dixie. It is a conceivable project we're talking about." Cooper says emphatically, demanding the fourth wish.

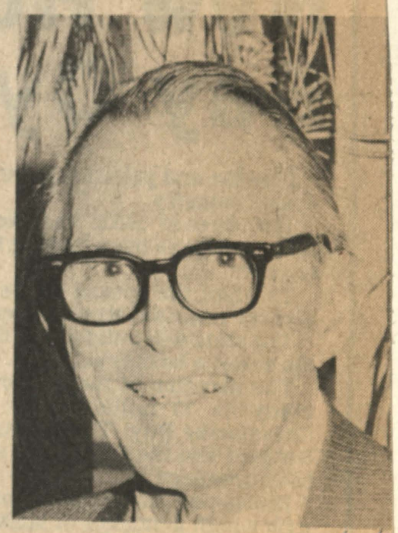
"The future of this office is tied into the area itself," Cooper said. "And the area must support itself." His fourth wish is for a central district management authority that would combine all interested city groups and market Salisbury, not just as a few blocks downtown, but as the center of an entire region.

"If everyone gets in on it," Cooper said about the project, "it's not a burden for anyone."

For Cooper, the New Year doesn't mean turning over a new leaf, rather, a different leaf. "I don't have a master plan for retirement," he said, adding, he is feeling mixed emotions about retiring and the one aspect of the job he will miss the most is the people.

He said he expects to do more traveling, but retirment plans are again diverted to conversation about how he can still be of assistance to the on-going revitalization project. He said he will stop into the office from time to time, and hopes his successor, Jenifer Kajencki, will call on him occassionally.

"If you like the thing you're doing," Cooper said, "I don't think you should just chop it off."



Philip C. Cooper 12/31/86

Landfill Tipping Fee OK'd

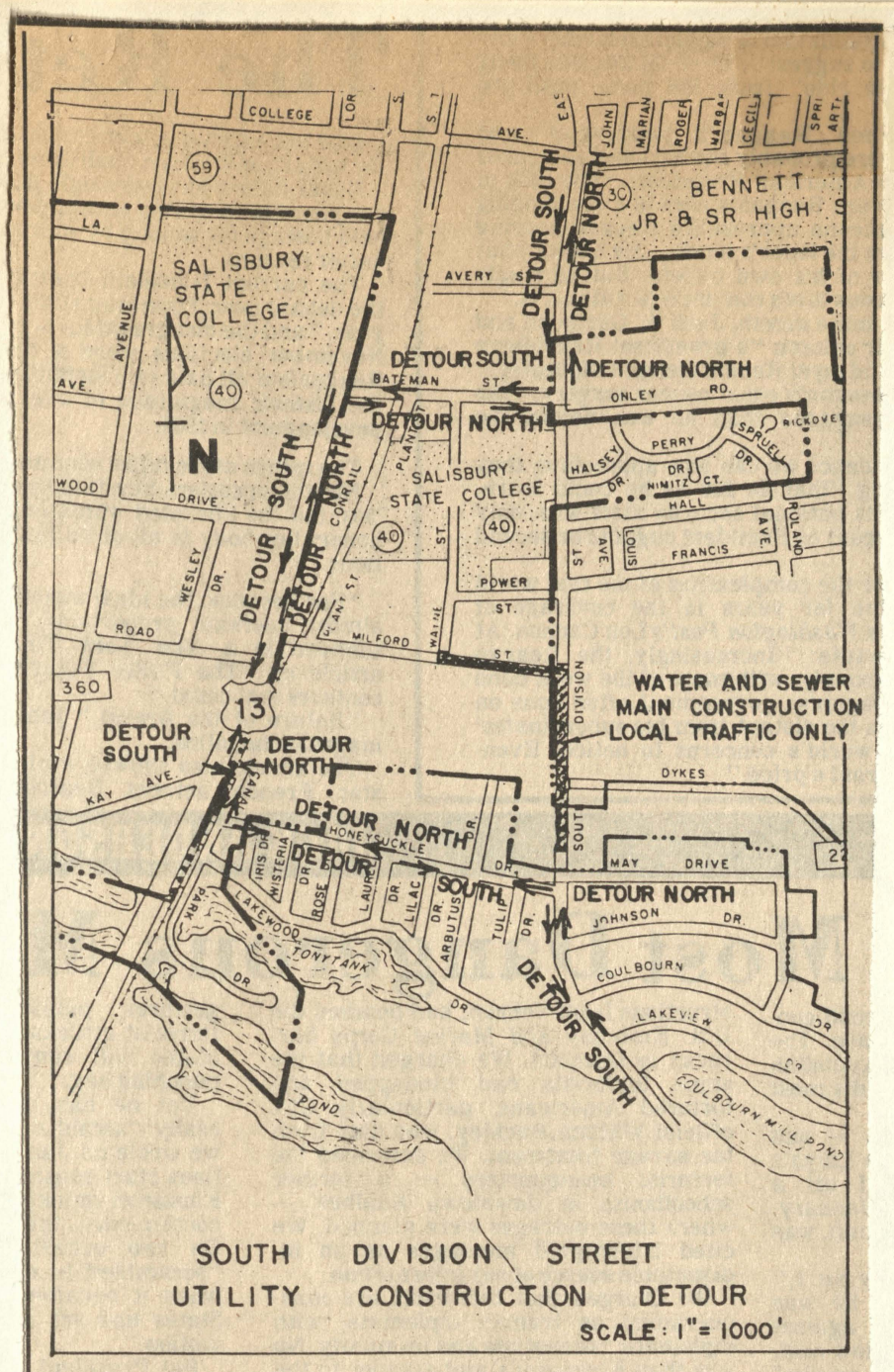
SALISBURY — After a month's postponement, the Wicomico County Council Tuesday approved a landfill tipping fee policy which imposes a $10-a-ton charge on all vehicles carrying more than a half-ton pickup truck load to the county dump beginning Feb. 1.

A change in the proposed policy — that residents and non-commercial haulers will now be charged if dumping more than a half-ton pickup truck load or 1,000 pounds — is a result of commercial haulers telling the council at its Dec. 16 meeting that excluding non-commercial haulers from the fee would hurt their industry.

Municipalities hauling waste in municipal vehicles under the new policy will not be charged the tipping fee until June to allow for their fiscal budgetary considerations. If municipalities are using commercial haulers, the business will be charged the fee unless it can be determined that the vehicle only contains waste from the municipality.

Commercial haulers' representatives told the council Tuesday the new policy met with their satisfaction.

1/7/87



SOUTH DIVISION STREET
UTILITY CONSTRUCTION DETOUR
SCALE: 1" = 1000'

Detour Route

Starting Monday, the city of Salisbury will be constructing water and sewer mains in South Division Street between Milford Street and May Drive. The work is expected to take three to four weeks to complete. During that time period, through traffic will be detoured around the construction utilizing Bateman Street, South Salisbury Boulevard and Honeysuckle Drive. Access to local businesses in the construction area will be maintained at all times, a spokesman for the city said.

12/31/86

Landing Expanded Into Floating Pier

1/18/87

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Public Works Department is in the process of expanding the boat landing off Carroll Street into a floating pier.

According to Public Works Director Thomas D. Plotts, a $25,000 state shoreline protection grant is enabling the city to proceed with the new floating pier as well as expansion of the bulkheading.

Water & Sewer Work Planned for South Division Street

Starting Monday, January 5, 1987, the City of Salisbury will be constructing water and sewer mains in South Division Street between Milford Street and May Drive. The work is expected to take three to four weeks to complete. During that time period, thru traffic will be detoured around the construction utilizing Bateman Street, South Salisbury Boulevard and Honeysuckle Drive.

Access to local business in the construction area will be maintained at all times.

Public Works Dept. Tips on Avoiding Frozen Pipes

As a public service, the Public Works Department of the City of Salisbury suggests several precautions that will prevent frozen pipes during the winter:

1. Close in open crawl spaces and under porch areas where pipes are exposed. This will protect th pipes from cold winds.
2. Insulate pipes in areas likely to go below the freezing temperature.
3. Allow a tap to trickle during very cold weather, especially at night when there is no water flow in the building for many hours. Moving water is not likely to freeze and the cost to run a trickle is minor.
4. If building is vacant, call the Water Department for prompt turn-off and then drain the system.

If pipes burst, the main valve should be closed right away in order to prevent costly wastage of water. If the main valve cannot be located, the Water Department should be called at 548-3115 or Public Works Department at 548-3177 during business hours. During nights and weekends, the Police Department should be contacted, and it will contact emergency workers promptly.

Many residents and businesses that have pipes which have burst may receive excessive water and sewer bills. Upon application to the Public Works Department at 548-3170, an adjustment of the sewer bill will be initiated only upon presentation of sufficient evidence that the high bill resulted from burst pipes caused by freezing.

Advertiser 1/7

Construction Set In Salisbury

1/11/87

SALISBURY — Starting the week of Jan. 12, the city of Salisbury will begin the construction needed to upgrade water mains in Long Avenue from Alvin Avenue to Glen Avenue; Alvin Avenue from Glen Avenue to Long Avenue; and Parkway Avenue from Parkway Circle to Long Avenue. Some minor detouring of traffic is to be expected with the work.

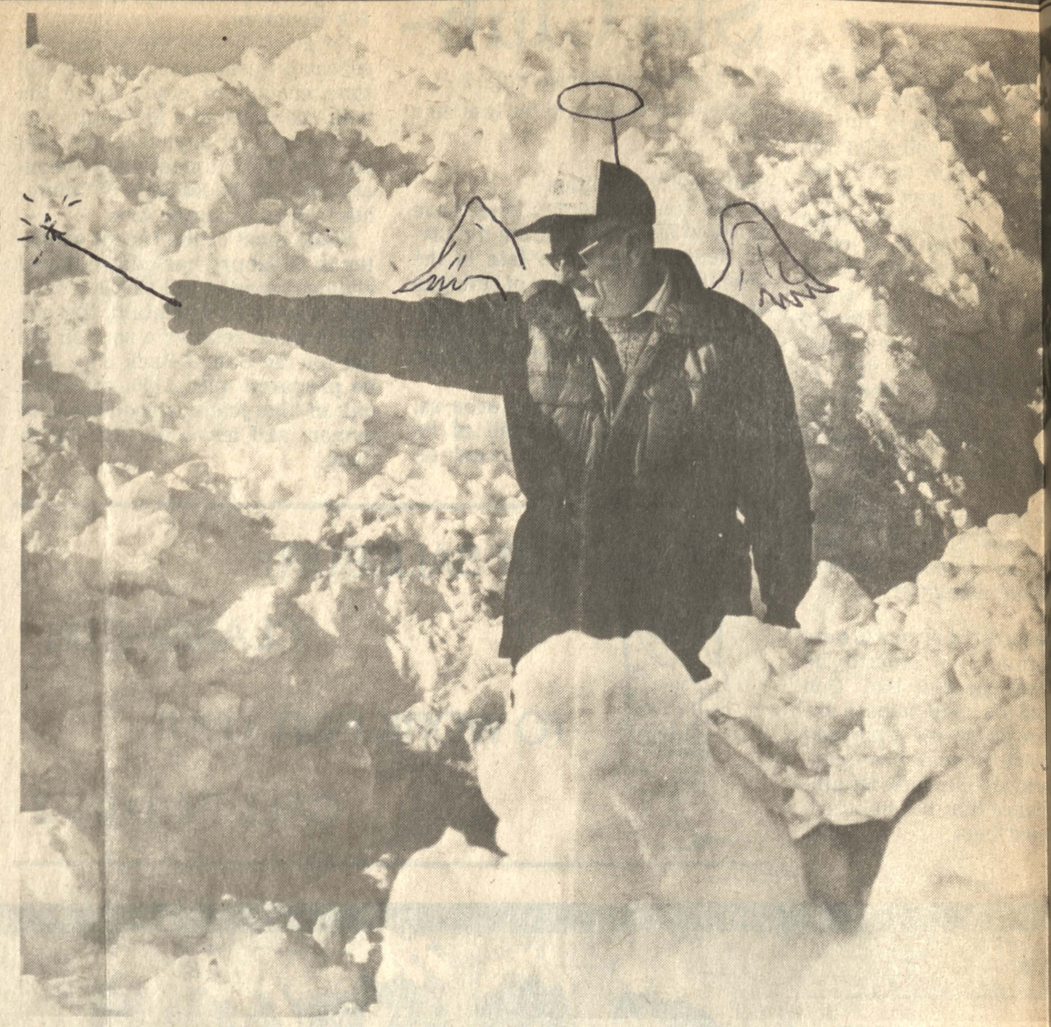
The construction is expected to take approximately two months to complete, officials said.

JOE CALLOWAY, general superintendent for the Salisbury Public Works Department, directs John Gordy, road grader operator, to roads which need clearing. In addition to clearing the roads according to mapped-out, pre-planned 'phases,' the department also reacts to citizens' needs, when it can, by diverting snowclearing vehicles t emergencies.

The Snow Men

A Salute to the Guys Who Helped Salisbury Dig Out

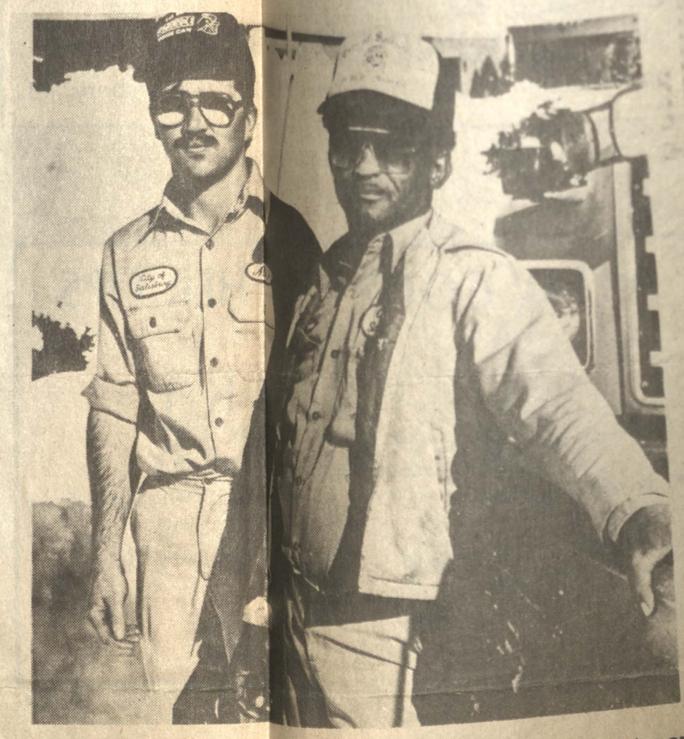
By Peter Kolonia



DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS' snow clearing operations from the City's Maintenance Yard and from a radio in his automobile, general supervisor Joe Calloway (above) says that, like some women he knows, "The snow is pretty, but it's a devil to deal with." Fighting Salisbury's worse snowstorm in 20 years, he was up for 36 hours straight,

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR Tom Plotts, above, was photographed in the City Maintenance Yard by the 300 ton supply of salt the Department stocks for snow emergencies. Last week's storm saw the Deparment spread about 100 tons of salt on Salisbury's street. Walter Banks, a front end loader operator, said the main problem with clearing city parking lots was that many were buried so deep, he couldn't locate them.

working from 9:00am Sunc to 11:00pm Monday. "When there's an inch of snow on the road, we start ur emergency plan," says Calloway. "We have to start early, to be sure tat none of the men get snowed in. It's a challenge," he says, "not a choc Each snowstorm brings a new challenge. We work with the police and fir department, providing a needed service." To fight the snow, the departmt employs 30-35 workers and they operate 3 salt spreaders, 3 snow plows, snow blower, two front end loaders and one grader. "We want to thanl the public for staying home," says Calloway. "They gave us room to work"



MIKE ROSS AND DON KING (left to right) make up a navigator and driver team on one of Salisbury's snowplows. They alternated roles during the three day battle against last week's snowfall. They were part of a 'planned attack' against the snow which had been formulated several years ago and includes six routes or 'phases.' The routes are calculated so that the snowplow/salt spreaders make a circuit, clearing the most important thoroughfares in town and traveling back to the City Maintenance Yard to pick up another load of salt.

More Snow Possible

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Sunny skies, warmer temperatures and clearer roads allowed Lower Eastern Shore Residents to attempt a normal routine Wednesday following Sunday and Monday's snowstorm but more snow is traveling here late this evening which could put an end to the sunny reprieve of better weather.

The snow, according to the National Weather Service, will probably turn to sleet and rain. With so much snow on the ground, according to a NWS spokesman, it will be difficult for warm air to come to the area, resulting in an expected inch of slush or a mix of snow and freezing rain.

The spokesman said the temperatures for today are expected to reach the mid to upper 30s, following the 10 degrees reported at 8 a.m. by the Salisbury Wicomico Regional Airport Flight Service Station, with clouds increasing later in the day. He said Friday's temperatures will be warmer with the overnight snow possibly turning to rain in the afternoon.

For travelers, the road conditions that had begun to clear as a result of state, county and city roads personnel's plowing the last few days could worsen. Maryland State Police said the main arteries are now clear but could become extremely hazardous if the snow changes to freezing rain and blankets the highways with ice.

STATE POLICE said secondary roads are still posing a problem because they are snow-packed and icy. Police said freezing rain will not greatly affect these raods as they are already icy and dangerous.

State police did say the expected freezing rain could liken driving to skating on an ice rink and motorists should stay home if possible.

While the prognosis does not seem good for tonight and tomorrow, Wednesday brought more motorists out, with some businesses and offices returning to normal schedules. While schools in the area were closed Wednesday, some schools in the area opened late today with Wicomico County remaining closed.

Many businesses and government office buildings were finally able to have their parking lots plowed by Wednesday and restaurants that saw little business Tuesday were edging toward their usual number of customers by Wednesday afternoon. With secondary roads still snow-packed and icy, however, many residents in the area did avoid traveling.

Wicomico County Roads Department Director Kirk Banks said his staff is still trying to clear away the snow and will continue to do so until all the roads are clear. He said the main arteries are clear and the general outlook is "satisfactory under these conditions."

BANKS said his staff is trying to be careful around resident's driveways and mailboxes, which had to be clear for the post office to deliver mail. He said he doesn't want to undo all the work the residents have done, but the plowing must continue.

Should more snow arrive, Banks said his staff will simply have to

(See SNOW, page 20)

Salisbury's City Service Center

BLOWING SNOW. Howard Landon, park foreman for the City of Salisbury, uses a self-propelled blower to clear sidewalks along Salisbury's City Park to allow pedestrians to travel safely. (Times Photo by Milt Savage

1/28/87

City Crews: 'The Real Unsung Heroes'

2/1/87

Editor Of The Times:

I was very suprised to see that no credit was given in your editoiral on Tuesday (The Unsung Heroes) to the Salisbury Department of Public Works without whose heroic efforts to open the highways to make passage possible it would not have been possible for the Maryland Army National Guard, the Maryland State Police, the Wicomico County Sheriff's Department and the Salisbury City Police Department to function.

I think this is an oversight which should be corrected! The real unsung heroes are the employees of the Department of Public Works of the City of Salisbury.

Name Withheld

This Letter to the Editor came unsigned. Written on the back of message form, we assume it to be from someone working for the city's deparmtnet of public works. The editorial cited several groups, mainly owners of four-wheelers and "an army of state and county road crews" who worked long hours scraping the snow from the highways. It was an oversight on our part not to mention the city crews. We applaud the city employees who also worked without rest for long hours to make it possible for many of us to get to work. We said our hats were off to others who we may have forgotten to mention. We're glad to be more specific. All those people who worked during the snowstorm deserve credit. —Ed.

Hats Off To The Snow Crews

2/1/87

Editor Of The Times:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the city and state snow removal crews and the jobs they've done during our 18-inch snow emergency.

I heard some people complaining about the snow removal process being too slow. I told them they should have manned the snow plows and trucks to see if they could have done better job.

As of this writing, most of the main roads are clear. As Salisbury struggles to get back to work and school, I have high praise for those people who worked 12, 15 or even 18 hours to clear the roads.

With the magnitude of an 18-inch snowfall — and the fact that it was 7 degrees below zero here this week — I feel the city should feel lucky it only took three days to dig out.

I also saw the people of this city band together, helping those who were stuck in high drifts to get their vehicles out.

Salisbury is not a snow city, but I commend those who were prepared to help. My hat is off to all of you.

Jim Bulmer
Salisbury

Schumaker Heights

2/1/87

The Council unanimously passed the zoning for the annexation known as Schumaker Heights. The area lies to the east and west of Beaglin Park Drive, between the Parkside Apartments and the North Park Drive. The two parcels (one to the east of Beaglin Park Drive and the other to the west) were zoned R-8a and R-5a respectively. Approximately 30 single-family homes are planned for the 10.9 acre area.

Council Approves Closing Of Street

2/18/87

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday gave its final approval to the closing of Albert Street, a "paper" street located north of West Lincoln Avenue used as a lot's entrance and exit.

A request for the closing of the street was made by the Eastern Shore Adventure Partnership which intends to sell the property for development. According to city Public Works Director Thomas D. Plotts, the street is not salable and is not needed for public access to other properties.

More

Salisbury's City Service Center

Salisbury News and Advertiser, Wednesday, May 27, 1987—5

Leaking Trash Trucks

My message is this: Why isn't something being done about the oil and heavens-knows-what-else that is being leeked on the roads from the trash trucks that go from house to house picking up the garbage? We have complained about the oil leeking from the motors and the lift mechanisms. It's unsightly and does not wash away. Not only that, but it causes the asphalt to deteriorate; people walk through it and carry the stain in their homes and ruin their carpets. The environmental agents can ride the streets and see the spots, especially in the newer developments where the streets are not as old and the stains show. It looks unsightly and is damaging to property. I trust the EPA will look out for our city and its residents and do something about protecting us from this destruction. They can start by making the garbage collectors clean up their act *and* their equipment. Thank you.

according to a NWS spokesman, it will be difficult for warm air to come to the area

k to allow pedestrians to travel safely. (Times to by Milt Savage

1/28/87

Commission OKs Zoning Change For New Project

2/12/87

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — A new subdivision proposed to accommodate single-family residences Wednesday was approved as a planned residential district from a residential R-5A zoning by the Salisbury Wicomico County Planning and Zoning Commission. Residents unassociated with the project did not attend the public hearing held by the commission and the reclassification was approved with opposition.

The subdivision, proposed as "Village on the Park" by developer Robert D. Dashiell Inc., is located on 3.8 acres of land between Beaglin Park Drive and North Park Drive. Sixteen one-story homes are being proposed on lots averaging 4,383 square feet.

The commission's recommendations will be sent to the City Council for its approval of the reclassification. Following approval by the City Council, Dashiell's final plans must still be approved.

According to the planning and zoning staff, a planned residential district is permitted for a tract of land able to accommodate more than five dwelling units and less than 50. The staff reported to the commission that a district allows 12 units per acre while the proposed project is well below that figure with 5.2 units per acre.

IN A R-5A zoned area, according to the staff report, the population could be as much as 89 persons if a permitted apartment building was located on the site rather than the estimated 42 people Dashiell's project expects.

Open space being projected for the project as well as landscaping were all acceptable to the commission as was the entrances proposed for the North Park Drive boundary rather than the Beaglin Park Drive side. The commission did have some concerns about the project such as the width of private drives planned at 16 feet which the developer will address in his final plans.

One commission member, Thomas Becker, suggested that the homes be closer together than the average 15-foot distance proposed by the developer. He said he would like to see the homes actually touch, providing more open space and saving the developer some construction costs.

Dashiell said the purpose of the new development is to provide such housing to people who want a maintenance free environment that comes with common areas maintained by an association, but who still want to own their property separately from their neighbors. Commission member Norman Holland agreed.

Dashiell said the two-bedroom homes will be about 2,100 square feet. He said a price has not yet been set but a range between $140,000 and $175,000 is being considered.

Following construction of the 16 houses, Dashiell is proposing another phase of the project which would be in the same area and house an additional 18 homes.

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(See SNOW, page 20)

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Plans For Newtown Park Outlined

Housing Buy-Out Funds Are Being Appropriated

2/4/87

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The proposed Newtown Park is on its way to becoming a reality, according to city officials, with area housing buy-out funds being appropriated by state Program Open Space through the Wicomico County Recreation Commission.

City Executive Officer Patrick J. Fennell Monday outlined the city's plans regarding the purchase of houses located between Poplar Hill Avenue, Broad and Ellen Streets. He said the recreation commission appropriated $191,425 funds for purchasing the houses and the city has obtained state and federal Department of Housing and Urban Development Section 8 Rental Subsidy Certificates for the relocation of tenants of the properties.

While Newtown Association members applauded the long-awaited project, which includes funds for the Chipman Foundation Center, one property owner expressed opposition to the plans.

Jerry Matyiko said he bought his properties less than a year ago with plans of converting the houses to offices. Despite problems he encountered with parking, he said, the buildings are still of value and can be renovated whether or not they meet the area's historic flavor.

A Newtown resident said the houses located in the proposed park area are substandard and if landlords had wanted to hold onto their properties honest efforts in renovation could have been made. Another resident said it is the responsibility of any prospective property owner in the area to find out what the city requirements concerning zoning and uses before making such purchases.

Fennell said the first ten properties in the area have been appraised and are receiving priority in terms of notification, sale negotiation and tenant relocation. He said the procedures in acquiring the property follow the requirements of Program Open Space and, therefore, cannot be privately negotiated with property owners as are other municipal purchases to avoid long price battles.

Fennell also said that the city will go to court if need be concerning the purchase of the properties and that it is expected some landlords will require that action.

When asked whether the tenants will be relocated to better housing, council member Robin Cockey said the homes located in the proposed park area are in such bad condition, the new housing can only be an improvement.

Council president Robert Powell said the project has been on the city's burner for almost ten years and was well publicized before the funds actually became available. "I believe the die has been cast," he said, "and there will be a park."

people who worked during the snowstorm deserve credit. —Ed.

City Public Works Superintendent Reflects On Career

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — After almost four decades with Salisbury's Department of Public Works, Raymond J. Smith is retiring as superintendent, having watched the city grow in both size and services.

Smith started as a heavy equipment operator with public works on July 11, 1949. Thirty-seven years and seven months later, he will retire Jan. 30 after participating in projects such as Eastern Shore Drive and the Downtown Plaza.

"When I came," Smith said from his office at the City Service Center, "there was little equipment." He said everything was done by hand, including water and sewer construction.

"WHAT CAN NOW be done in half a day, took two to three days with the same crew of men," Smith said.

The 61-year-old city employee said he saw the city not only expand in size with annexations but helped construct the new streets needed to accommodate those expansions. He worked on the Eastern Shore Drive construction and the relocation of Carroll Street and said, as he reminisced, "I'm just very proud to be a part of the city."

Smith has been a part of the city and the county in more ways than one, having membership in the Salisbury Exchange Club, the Fruitland Fire Department, Masonic Lodge No. 221 and participating in city projects such as the Salisbury Zoo's bear exhibit and the city's Spring Festival.

With the first snow of the year hitting Maryland this week, the World War II Army veteran recalled the "worst" snow storms to have hit the city. He remembers the first during his employment with the city occurred in 1966 which lasted 12 days and 12 nights, depositing 26 inches on the city.

"SOME MEN worked 200 hours in those 12 days," Smith said, adding, however, that a more severe storm was to follow in 1979.

> "I'd just like for the city to keep on growing," Smith said. "And, I'm going to sit back at home and just watch it."

This time, Smith said, the city was covered with 26 inches of snow within four hours from the time the storm began. "It was the only storm I can remember that we had to pull all the equipment off the streets," Smith said. "The workers couldn't see where they were going."

TAKING RETIREMENT. Raymond J. Smith, Salisbury Superintendent of Public Works, says the city has grown in both size and services since he became a municipal employee almost 38 years ago. Smith is retiring next Friday. (Times Photo by Susan Gerstel)

While he said he will miss his job with the city, including working 24 hours-on-call since he started, Smith said is looking forward to traveling with his wife of almost 40 years, Marguerite. He said he also plans to spend time in his woodworking shop at home and make furniture.

Smith will stay active during his retirement, saying keeping busy is the way to keep young. But he called turning in his resignation the second most important event in his life, his marriage being the first.

WITH ALMOST 38 years with the city behind him, Smith predicts the city's next four decades will mean more growth. "It's going to be a busy place," he said. "You'll see a lot more construction in the area around the river."

What would he like to see happen?

"I'd just like for the city to keep on growing," Smith said. "And, I'm going to sit back at home and just watch it." 1/28/87

Public Must Support Idea

The old incinerator building on Route 50 in Salisbury may — if the public supports the proposal — house a regional science museum.

Salisbury Zoo Director Peter Crowcroft would like to see a science and technology museum in the old building with exhbits showcasing the advances of the area's businesses, including the poultry industry.

He proposes that the museum include not only high-tech exhibits but those of basic science. As an inducement to younger visitors, Crowcroft envisions hands-on exhibits where children would be able to shoot lasers and work computer programs.

The proposal has merit and, as Crowcroft notes, the museum's success will hinge upon strong public support as well as from elected officials.

Wicomico County Tourism Director Lewis Carman is enthusiastic about the museum, calling it a magnet to tourists traveling Route 50 to Ocean City.

Mayor W. Paul Martin has indicated that he likes the idea, but city council approval is needed before the project gets off the ground.

There should be no lack of themes for the museum. The poultry industry, for example, has moved into the high-tech stage with ever-expanding scientific development.

First on the agenda is city council approval.

Once past that hurdle, people must be found to serve on a steering committee to determine what construction, if any, is needed at the incinerator site.

Financing will be the key. The idea will die unless there is public and private sector support.

The museum will not appear overnight, but if the idea catches on, people in this area will work hard to make it possible.

There will be no shortage of volunteers.

(Photo: P. Kolonia)

DR. PETER CROWCROFT has brought a lifetime of zoo and museum experience to his position as director of the Salisbury Zoo. Now, he turns that expertice to an exciting new project: the establishment of a museum of science and technology at the site of the abandoned incinerator on Route 50 in Salisbury.

Museum of Science & Technology Proposed for Incinerator Site

By PETER KOLONIA

The mayor's office has been approached with an idea that could remedy what many consider a Salisbury eyesore: the abandoned city incinerator on Route 50 and Delaware Avenue. The large, vandalized building with its graffiti, broken window panes, and parking lot of weeds popping through cracked asphalt, offers a dismal first impression of Salisbury to east-bound Route 50 traffic, many believe.

"It's an eyesore," Mayor W. Paul Martin said of the incinerator recently. "We're going to have to do something to upgrade it....The idea that was proposed is a joint project between public and private groups, and I think it's a good one."

That proposal would have the building house a musuem of science and technology, the first of its type on Delamarva. The museum would explore and showcase the development of 20th century science and technology, particularly as it was conceived, developed and applied in our region.

Its exhibits would be directed primarily at the young, and the intention would be to engender a sense of wonder, excitment and potential in science and technology, as well as a pride in the accomplishments of the region. Proposed by Salisbury Zoo director Peter Crowcroft, the museum would adhere to national standards of excelence, while maintaining a regional focus. Dr. Crowcroft suggests the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago as a model.

Hands-On

"The exhibits would be very 'hands-on'," Dr. Crowcroft explained. "Children would actually aim and fire a beam of laser light, for example. It would reflect back and forth up the tall interior walls of the building. The museum would be a lively destination for school groups, just as the zoo is now...and it would give local industry the chance to demonstrate the marvelous things that they do."

During a recent tour of the yellow-brick sturucture, daylight filtered through the high walls of glass brick creating the type of dramatic lighting usually seen only in churchs. Dr. Crowcroft gestured with enthusiasm as he conveyed his idea of what the building could become for the region. "It's a natural space for a gallery," he said. "And the architecture lends itself to the display of technology."

As the museum's focal point, th tall incinerator chimney might b converted, with the help of N

Continued on Page 15

Museum—

Continued from Page 1

SA's Wallops Island facility, into a space rocket. The bright metalic structure, as shown on Dr. Crowcroft's schematic computer illustration of the future museum, would spout steam and be dramatically spotlit at night. It would be attached to the museum by means of a catwalk-like gantry which would allow access to the rocket's simulated nose cone.

A Showcase

The museum would serve as a high-profile showcase for the products and achievements of local industry and business. Displays, both permanent and temporary, would spotlight 20th century advancements in bio-technology, avian nutrition, microwave technology, aviation, fiber optics, electronics, genetics and space flight. According to Dr. Crowcroft, the project would be something all local industry could get behind as a joint, regional 'celebration of progress'.

It addition to being of interest to school groups, the musuem would "beat the drum a little for our area," Dr. Crowcroft said. "By focusing attention on high-tech achievements, it might serve as a drawing card to attract more high-tech industry and jobs to the area." He hopes, over the coming months, to interest NASA, Perdue, K&L Microwave, Grumman, Delmarva Power and Light, Dresser Industries and the telephone company among others local businesses, in offering financial support.

The museum might would also be good for the West Side, Dr. Crowcroft believes. "Imagine what a half million visitors a year would mean for the (Salisbury) Shopping Center," he says.

No Drain on Taxpayers

Peter Crowcroft, who has directed both a museum and zoos during his career in public service, hopes to be able to present his idea to the Salisbury City Council. "Perhaps a committee representing the entire community will be appointed to study the feasiblity of the museum," he says. Crowcroft envisions it will cost several million dollars. "It's important that the project not be a drain on local taxpayers," he says. "Most of the funding will come from private sources."

The city incinerator was used to burn garbarge from roughly the early sixties to mid seventies. Federal regulations on air pollution tightened in the 1970's and it became cheaper to dispose of garbage in land fills rather than refit the incinerator to meet environmental protection standards. As a result, the building has sat empty for more than a decade.

The Incinerator

(not a Clint Eastwood movie)

If someone were to tell you that one of the sturdiest, most highly visible and most architecturally interesting buildings in Salisbury, Maryland was a pigeon coop, you might laugh.

Stop laughing; it's true.

When the huge municipal incinerator on the corner of Route 50 and Delaware Avenue was abandoned over ten years ago, its windows were broken out by vandal-thrown rocks and beer bottles. Soon the imposing building, with its remarkably thick walls, its shiny, yellow glazed brick, and its 4-ton ceiling hoist, became home to a flock of pigeons. When you enter the building, the birds beat the dusty air making a noisy exit, and after a minute you are left in eerie silence. The walls rise upward with the no-nonsense authority of municipal institutions. Bright yellow sunlight shoots through the tall banks of glass brick windows, lighting the interior dramatically, and falling on a two or three inch deep reminder that this handsome building is — a pigeon coop.

Now, as reported in this edition of The Advertiser, Dr. Peter Crowcroft, director of the Salisbury Zoo, is suggesting to city officials that they consider using the incinerator building to house a museum of science and technology. The museum will contain displays and exhibits intended to amuse and inspire school children. It would focus on the achievements of 20th century science, particularly as they have been conceived, developed and applied by business and industry in our area. Dr. Crowcroft sees the museum as a gift of wonder and pride from the businesses of today to the children of tomorrow. "The twentieth century reaching out into the twenty-first," is how he puts it.

Elsewhere in this issue is an article describing the process by which the Salisbury city budget is constructed. According to that article, these up-coming weeks are the ones in which in it's decided what items are placed in the budget that is presented to the City Council. Many in the community would be pleased to see the city set aside seed moneyfor development of project to make better use of the incinerator building. Dr. Crowcroft's is the best we've heard of to date.

p.k.

Maryland Bridge Inspect

164 Of 2,400 Spans Deficient

ANNAPOLIS (AP) — A reevaluation of Maryland's bridge inspection program, following the deadly collapse of an interstate bridge in New York State, has turned up no evidence that the state needs to change its inspection procedures, transportation officials say.

The reevaluation showed that Maryland "has been following good procedure and what we thought has been inspected has been inspected," according to Earle Freedman, the state's deputy chief engineer in charge of bridge development.

The state reexamined its program by making computer checks of inspection cycles, Freedman said.

Bridges must be inspected at least once every two years to meet federal requirements. Underwater inspections requiring the services of divers must be conducted at least once every five years.

The state has been conducting more frequent inspections than required in many instances, Freedman said.

"I think the state of Maryland has understood the need for significant dollars for bridge work," Freedman said. "There has been a constant effort to increase the dollars."

A 5-cent increase in the state gas tax that goes into effect July 1 will produce additional revenues for both highway and bridge work.

"You always have more problems than you have dollars. But I do believe we have been able to turn the corner on our most critical bridge problems," Freedman said.

The state has either begun reconstruction, or is in the design phase, in its most pressing bridge projects, he said.

Of the 2,400 bridges for which the state is responsible for inspecting, 164 are now listed as being structurally deficient. That designation means they require corrective action in the immediate future to handle their authorized weights; it has nothing to do with whether they are safe or not.

Two-hundred-twelve bridges on state highways are currently categorized as functionally obsolete, according to Freedman. A two-lane bridge that connects a four-lane highway would fall under this category. So would a bridge that must be closed on occasion because it was not built to accomodate the flow of a stream and flooding.

Nearly 300 bridges have deficient decks.

In addition to the 2,400 bridges on state highways, there are 2,000 bridges that local subdivisions are responsible for inspecting.

The state monitors those bridges, however, to ensure they are being inspected ever two years.

Renovation Of Inn Planned 4/28

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — A local businessman is taking his chances on whether he can fit into the scheme of the city's downtown revitalization project.

Bob Culver, of Culver & Co., is in

According to the city's revitalization plan for the downtown, the Market Street Inn property has been proposed for acquisition and demolition sometime in the future to make room for a riverwalk and cultural center.

Culver said he will be investing about $250,000 in the project, which includes purchase of the property and renovation costs. He said he will be renovating the downstairs for service of sandwiches, soups and other light fare and the upstairs for his company offices.

The council approved having a three-year easement drawn up for

City Incinerator Building Could Become Museum

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — While no longer in use, the city's Route 50 incinerator building is receiving much attention about what its future use could be and the latest seed of an idea is growing into a regional science museum concept targeted for the children of the 21st century.

Salisbury Zoo Director Peter Crowcroft envisions a science and technology museum showcasing the advances of the region's industry. To him, the project will succeed if the seed is nurtured with enthusiasm and financial support of local businesses and leaders.

"We would be building something for the children of the 21st century to see what was accomplished in the 20th century," Crowcroft said.

While zoo director, Crowcroft is no stranger to museums, having directed such facilities prior to managing zoos. With an excitement sparkling in his eyes, he matter-of-factly says managing museums is an easier task than managing zoos.

CROWCROFT has spoken with Mayor W. Paul Martin about the idea and the city leader said he likes the idea. While he emphasizes the idea is simply that and not yet a proposal before the city council, Martin said the project will need public support in addition to hard work and a strong effort from private sources.

While the city has been trying to sell the building and rejected one low bid of about $50,000, Martin said he would "definitely like to see something done with the building."

Crowcroft said he doesn't see any problems getting the public behind the project and his enthusiasm was readily caught by Wicomico County Tourism Director Lewis Carman who called the idea "the magnet Salisbury and Wicomico County have been looking for."

"It's a super idea and a super location," Carman said, adding the museum would be a magnet to tourists traveling on the major artery to Ocean City.

One of the ideas Crowcroft would like to see is the incinerator's tower converted into a space ship that actually emits steam. He said every child traveling with his parents on Route 50 on the way to Ocean City will demand to stop and visit.

THE museum primarily should be a hands-on facility, according to Crowcroft, who said he would like to see children able to shoot lasers and work computer programs. He said a portion of the incinerator should be maintained to show visitors the original use of the building.

(See MUSEUM, page A2)

Salisbury Incinerator on Route 50 1/4/87

Conaway Takes New Job In Del.

By SUSAN CANFORA
Of The Times Staff

county administrator Tuesday after 14 years. Although he resigned because the Su[illegible] in the state government," Conaway said. "I've

Two Ducks & a Deer

An Account of the Development of The Salisbury Zoo

2/11/87

By VALERIE DILLEHAY

It all started when Mr. Humphreys' dam broke back in 1909.

The old grist mill powered by the man-made pond in Salisbury just hadn't made enough money. He couldn't afford to rebuild it and, although the city tried, they couldn't fix it either. So the marshy land just sat there...it took about 46 years to come up with the idea to put animals there. And even then it was by accident.

The Salisbury Zoo had, by most standards, quite a modest beginning. Although the city had purchased the former marsh land for $5,000 in 1926 to take over a private water system situated on the property, nobody thought too much about it. Street sweepers used a portion of the land as a dump. But, sometime in the early 1950's, area residents started bringing unwanted wild animals they had found to the land divided by a stream. Wild ducks and others mysteriously settled there. And then came the deer.

It was in the midst of the hunting season. For some time, the parishioners at a Rehoboth, Maryland church had been joined for Sunday morning worship service by a young buck. As the story goes, this young buck would casually saunter into the sanctuary on warm Sunday mornings, stay for at least a portion of the service and leave. And while the Rehoboth parishioners grew fond of their Sunday morning guest, they feared for his welfare during the hunting season. So, a group of them brought their wild friend to Salisbury's refuge for safe keeping. The former site of Mr. Humphrey's pond was gradually being transformed into a municipal park.

A Growing Menagerie

In the early 1960's fencing was added to keep the animals in and people out. Plentiful stocks of wild ducks and the deer had been too great a temptation for local hunters. Several had taken advantage of the readily available game and shot many with their bows and arrows.

Milton Ardis, caretaker of the park during the early sixties, provided the only food for the park's animal population initially. Without a budget for his endeavors, Ardis would visit local supermarkets to collect discarded vegetables and bread to feed the wildlife menagerie.

About that time, the park's makeshift zoo began to add more unusual animals to its collection of wild birds and deer. According to local lore, a "pet" bear was found chained to a tree at one Salisbury residence. In order to save the bear from what outraged neighbors felt to be inhumane treatment, the black bear was taken to the city's park.

The Salisbury Zoo owes much of its beginnings to L. Thomas Parker, Jr., a city councilman from 1950 to 1958 and a charter member of the Zoo Committee. Parker added to the park's animal collection more exotic beasts including monkeys and peacocks. With his support the zoo employed, Ben Blackston, the first of five directors, and added considerably to the park's collection. Essays about the park and zoo, written by local high school students during the late 1950's, reveal the significance of the newly established zoo and park. "An impressive feature is the zoo, most unique in its lack of evidence of captivity; indeed, its animals cavort around as if in their native habitat, utterly unaffected by visitors," wrote one local student in 1958.

The First Eagle

John Moore, former assistant director of the Baltimore Zoo, took over directorship of Salisbury's zoo in the early sixties. Moore was especially knowledgeable about wildfowl and used the resources of the Ward Foundation extensively.

It was through Moore that the zoo acquired its first American Bald Eagle. While working on an independent study in Alaska one summer, Moore saw a small plane hit an eagle in mid-air while he was flying back to his home base from a day working in the field. He remembered the site of the accident and returned later in a helicopter to rescue the fallen national bird. After spending weeks nursing the bird back to health, Moore brought his patient back to the Salisbury Zoo. However, because the bald eagle is the national bird, those kept in captivity are subject to federal regulations that require birds be

Continued on Page 18

OLLIE THE ELEPHANT was a much-demanded addition to the Salisbury Zoo in the late 1960's. Pictured here with a docent of the city zoo, Ollie came to Salisbury after local residents donned campaign buttons and petitioned city officials to bring him to the zoo.

Zoo—

Continued from Page 1

held in pairs only. To comply with the law, Moore obtained a mate for his male eagle from the National Zoo in Washington D.C. (Further stipulations require that all large feathers shed by the bald eagles be saved and sent to the Department of the Interior in Washington. According to a zoo official, the feathers are distributed by the federal department to Indian reservations for use in their ceremonial headdress.)

Ollie the Elephant

Area clubs including the Exchange Club and the Salisbury Jaycees have contributed much to the evolution of the zoo. The former group sponsored a study in 1968 to determine how the zoo should be developed. A plan developed during the study by Robert McMeekin of Lexington, Kentucky was used as the basis for the current zoo.

Throughout, the zoo has been a product of the residents of Salisbury. During the early sixties, a city-wide campaign was launched to raise money to bring an elephant to the zoo. Local residents donned campaign buttons asking for an elephant in an all-out effort to add an exotic element to the park. Although the campaign successfully brought "Ollie" the elephant to the zoo, her stay was short-lived when she became ill and was taken to the National Zoo.

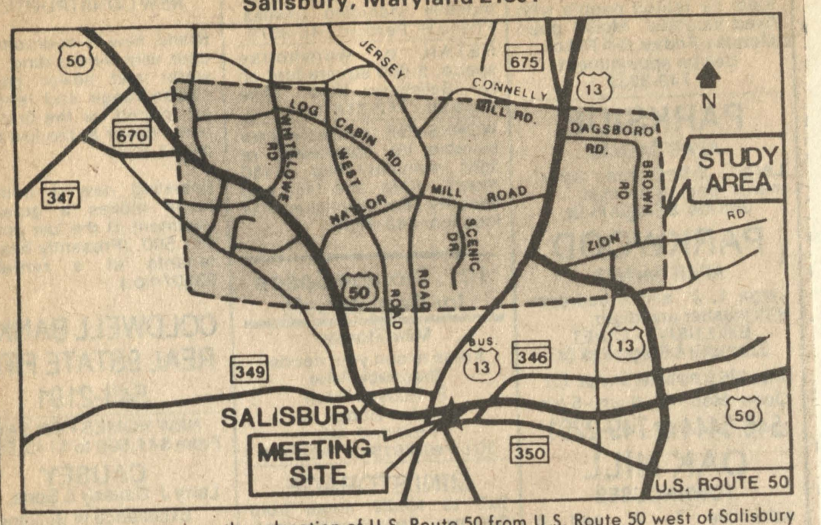
Another less successful tenant at the zoo was the Aoudad. A relatively rare deer-like animal, zoo officials were quite excited about the acquisition of the Aoudads. Assured by officials at the Baltimore Zoo, where the animals were purchased, that Aoudads couldn't swim, local zoo officials named a small island in the stream that flows through the park "Aoudad Island" in honor of its intended inhabitants. However, when the Baltimore Zoo officials and local zoo workers ferried the Aoudads out to their new home, no sooner had they disembarked for shore when the Aoudads quite gracefully launched themselves downriver never to be seen again. The island was renamed.

Dr. Peter Crowcroft, zoo director for the past three years, emphasizes the zoo's natural appearance, unencumbered with awkward cement cages and concession stands. Since the mid-1970's, the zoo has been developed solely as a showcase for North and South American animals.

PUBLIC NOTICE

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
WILL CONDUCT AN ALTERNATES PUBLIC MEETING
January 14, 1987 - 7:30 p.m.

In the Wicomico Junior High School
635 East Main Street
Salisbury, Maryland 21801



This project proposes the relocation of U.S. Route 50 from U.S. Route 50 west of Salisbury to U.S. Route 13 north of Salisbury, a distance of approximately 7.8 miles, in Wicomico County.

This project is currently in the Project Planning phases, which begins with agency and public involvement, engineering and environmental studies and concludes upon receipt of location and design approval. It involves the development and review of all reasonable build alternates and the No-Building, and selection of a specific alternate.

The purpose of this meeting is to acquaint the public with the need for the project and the progress of the study to date. Mapping depicting the project alternates will be on display. Following a presentation of approximately twenty minutes, citizens will be invited to offer comments for consideration in subsequent stages of the study. Representatives of the State Highway Administration will be available to record your comments and discuss points of interest with you.

All interested persons are invited to attend this meeting and express their views regarding the proposed alternates, including the social, economic, and environmental effects. Brochures and forms for written comments will be available at the meeting.

Citizen involvement in the planning process is encouraged. Written comments and requests to be included on the project mailing list may be submitted to Mr. Neil Pedersen, Director, Office of Planning and Preliminary Engineering, State Highway Administration, Post Office Box 717, Baltimore, Maryland 21203-0717.

Snow Emergency: If the Wicomico County "Snow Emergency Plan" is in effect on the day of the meeting, or if the County Public Schools have been closed and evening activities cancelled, this meeting will also be cancelled and rescheduled for January 21, 1987. The time and place remain the same.

Hal Kassoff
State Highway Administrator

E-7645
12/22

The Bypass

Elsewhere in this edition of The Advertiser is an article on a hearing scheduled for this week called by the State Highway Administration. That hearing is to acquaint the public with a study underway at the Highway Administration that is examining the possible re-location of U.S. Route 50 north of Salisbury.

The hearing is set for Wednesday evening (January 14th) at 7:30 at the Wicomico Junior High School, and it is an important one. Even if you don't live in or own a business in the area affected, the re-location of Route 50 will have an impact on you, if only because the project may cost over $50 million of your tax dollars

There are several schools of thought regarding the benefits and detriments of the bypass. According to one, it is poor urban design to have a four lane, major highway running through the heart of our town. It is disruptive to local traffic patterns and to local events. The community and the sense of community are split in two. Route 50 has created a barrier between the residential areas north of the city and the commercial district on the river. That barrier was one of the factors contributing to the decay of downtown Salisbury during the mid twentieth century. Adherents of this school of thought can't wait for the bypass to be built. They are already talking about the beautiful park with a long, tree-lined mall that will go where Route 50 currently cuts through town.

Another school of thought holds that the present location of Route 50 is excellent for promoting our town and its businesses to summer thru-traffic. Students of this school feel that the high visibility given Salisbury by the present location of 50 is a major (potential) benefit to us. They have great faith in the Downtown and West Side revitalization plans, and they fear that by removing Route 50, the object of much labor (revitalized Salisbury) may lose a major segment of its intended audience: transient traffic.

Area In North Salisbury Annexed

4/30/87

SALISBURY — Without any comments from city residents during a public hearing, the Salisbury City Council Monday passed a resolution annexing the east side of Route 13 north.

The annexation, part of a joint project between the city and Wicomico County to provide water and sewer to the area, incorporates 483 acres bounded on the north by J. Roland Dashiell and Sons property, the south by the Salisbury Mobile Home Park, the east by the property of Herman W. Parsons and Louis E. Brown Jr. and the west by Delmarva Power and Light Co.

While the Route 13 north annexation orginally was to be annexed as one parcel, opposition by area residents resulted in the city dividing the area into three parcels excluding most of the residents not wanting to be annexed.

Property Annexed In City Resolution

5/26/87

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved a resolution annexing property known as the Connolly Mill Industrial Park.

The land is bounded on the north by lands of James Anderson, lands of Westinghouse Electric Corp. and the lands of Williams Construction Co. Inc.; the east by Consolidated Rail Corp.; the south by Leonard Mill Branch and the city corporate limit and the west by Connolly Mill Branch.

Council Closes Neighborhood Alley

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved the second and final reading of an ordinance closing an alley between Evans Place and Morris Lane.

According to city Public Works Director Thomas D. Plotts, the alley does not provide egress or ingress to any property and the right-of-way to build a street or alley has no value to the city.

Council Approves Annexation Bid

5/27/87

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved a resolution annexing property known as the Culver Road Annexation along Pemberton Drive that is being proposed for residential development.

The 68 acres are bound on the northeast by Culver Road and the Fairground Apartments; the southeast by the northwest boundary line of properties binding on the northwest side of Marine Road; the south by Ellegood Street and Pemberton Drive; the southwest by the lands of Dennis G. Guse and the northwest by Gregory L. Nichols's property and the Quantico Road Church of Christ property.

According to city Public Works Director Thomas D. Plotts, the proposed use for the property is single-family and multi-family housing.

Smoking Ban Is OK'd By Council

4/22/87

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Smokers working for the city have 45 days before they have to take the ash trays off their desks.

The City Council Monday approved the second and final reading of its ordinance banning smoking in city offices and buildings.

For city workers in city-leased offices, such as the Wicomico County Government Office Building, the ban will be enforced in city offices and council chambers and conference rooms when used by city personnel.

The ordinance is the result of a nationwide focus on smoking in the workplace, as well as complaints by city workers finding smoke in their work environment offensive.

The ordinance allows the mayor to determine what areas of city-owned or leased buildings are designated smoking rooms. Mayor W. Paul Martin said he probably will designate the second floor lounge of the government office building as a smoking room but will not allow private offices of city employees to be permitted smoking areas.

"There will be no exceptions," Martin said. Common hallways in the government office building, he said, will remain permitted smoking areas for city employees unless the county enacts its own legislation concerning smoking in government buildings.

A person violating the ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor and, if convicted, can be fined no more than $100 in addition to costs of the violation.

Automated Garbage System Discussed

4/14/87

By LIZ HOLLAND
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — A proposal for an automated garbage collection program, which will reportedly result in substantial savings to the city, was presented to the Salisbury City Council Monday night by Director of Public Works Thomas D. Plotts.

Plotts showed the council a videotape he had made on a recent trip to Albany, Ga., where he inspected that city's newly-implemented garbage collection system. Garbage trucks equipped with automated side-loading arms pick up 95 gallon containers at the curbs and deposit the contents into the trucks. Plotts said the system requires only one man to drive and operate the trucks and would do away with the current three-man crews.

SINCE THE DRIVERS do all of the work from inside the trucks, Plotts said city officials in Albany reported fewer on-the-job injuries from garbage collectors. He said only three workman's compensation claims had been filed in the last five years by the city's 12 automated drivers.

If the council adopts Plotts' proposal, the city would provide all single family dwellings with the 95-gallon cans. Plotts said each high-density polyethylene can has built in wheels and is equal in capacity to about 5 standard trash cans. Multi-family units would be provided with larger 400 gallon containers. The trucks currently in use in Albany are capable of adapting to picking up both the 400 gallon and 95 gallon containers, he said.

Plotts said if Salisbury adopts an automated system, it would allow the city to service apartment complexes and other multi-family units. Currently, garbage collection at those complexes is contracted to private refuse companies.

FOR THE FIRST year of the plan's implementation, Potts proposed the city purchase two side-loading trucks, 300 400-gallon containers and 1,300 95-gallon containers. He said this would allow the city to pick up all garbage at the multi-family units and about 25 percent of single family units. He told council members the cost would be about what the city is currently paying for contracted garbage pickup.

During the second and third years of the plan, Plotts said another truck and an additional 1,300 95-gallon containers would be purchased. He said the monthly lease/purchase cost of the new equipment is expected to be about $7,100 per month. Plotts suggested in his proposal that a portion of the general funds surplus in the fiscal year 1987 budget be allocated for the purpose of aquiring the equipment.

Although the proposed plan would eliminate the jobs of several city garbage collectors, Plotts said those employees could be absorbed into other city departments over the three-year course of the plan.

Most of the council members seemed receptive to Plotts' plan and City Council President Robert Powell said he looked forward to hearing future propsals.

Rail Work To Close Streets

4/18/87

SALISBURY — Starting Monday, Conrail will be doing maintenance work on the rail crossings at Naylor Street and at Marvel Road. This work will necessitate the closing of the street for a short period.

Naylor Street will be closed continuously from Monday morning to Tuesday evening. It will be open Tuesday night; closed Wednesday during the work day; open Wednesday night and closed Thursday. It will be opened at the end of the working day on Thursday.

Repairs on both crossings are scheduled to be complete by the end of the working day on Thursday.

The end product of this work will be an improved railroad crossing surface at Marvel Road and the deletion of three of the five tracts on Naylor Street. This should enhance the rideability of the road and be a long-term benefit to the residents of the area, a spokesman for the city said.

The detour for Marvel Road will be Goddard Parkway to Naylor Mill Road to Armstrong Parkway. The detour for Naylor Street will be from Naylor and Brown north on Brown Street to Truitt, follow Truitt left toward Route 13 and then south on Route 13 back to Naylor Street.

User Fees

6/24/87

City & County Turn Increasingly to 'User Fees' as Funding Source

By Peter Kolonia

Wicomico County tax payers saw no property tax increase for fiscal year 1987/88, and despite the fact that the City of Salisbury lost $500,000 in federal revenue sharing, the Mayor and City Council were able to hold a property tax increase to only 3¢ per $100 of assessed value (the first tax hike in 12 years for Salisbury's property owners.)

How are city and county officials keeping taxes down? One of the means, especially in the county, is the 'user fee.' County and city governments traditionally 'charge' (tax) the entire community for the services they provided. Although this continues to be overwhelmingly the case, Salisbury and Wicomico County have been depending more in recent years on fees charged directly to the users of certain services.

This, according to County Executive Matt Creamer, is in part because government is increasingly involved in activities that benefit only selected parts of the community. Most services provided by local government benefit the entire community. Education, police protection, fire protection, and water and sewer service are examples. Because they affect the entire communty in varying ways, their impact on individuals is certain but difficult to calculate and charge for.

"We want to provide the services that people ask for," Mr. Creamer said, "especially if it's the type of service that individuals can't provide for themselves. But often, we are not justified in taxing all property owners in the county for a service that is used by only a select group." In such instances the county and city are

the coming fiscal year. This is approximately 2/3rds of the solid waste disposal costs the county will incur.

Because county property taxes increase by 1¢ for every $86,000 of needed revenue, were there no tipping fee, county taxpayers would have to bear the entire cost of the operating the landfill, and property taxes would have been raised by over 14¢ for FY '87/88.

Proposition 13

The fiscal history of the Youth and Civic Center provides a good example of how user fees are becoming an increasingly important part of the funding for certain county services. For FY '80/81, the county budgeted $175,000 for the operation of the Civic Center. This figure represents approximately 47% of its total operating costs. The remaining 53% was made up by fees paid by the Civic Center's users. For FY '87/88, the county has budgeted $198,000 for the Center, which represents only 29% (approximately) of the Civic Center's total operating expenses. Users of the facility now bear nearly 2/3rds of the Youth and Civic Center's cost.

Many of the programs offered by the Department of Recreation and Parks are also offered on a user fee basis. Because of that, the benefits and programs that the department offers are growing much faster than the department's cost to the taxpayer.

(The growth of user fees in local jurisdictions may, in part, be due to the example set by the well-

Manokin Sewer Extension OK'd

SALISBURY — The Wicomico County Council Tuesday approved a proposal that could extend the Manokin sewer project to phase II, providing the service to the entire area.

According to county grants administrator Karen Hoffman Dennis, the county's $500,000 federal Housing and Urban Develooment community block grant provided sewer service to all but 70 lots in the area. She asked that the county approve an application for additional funds that would provide for expansion of the project to include the remaining 70 lots.

Hoffman Dennis said community block grants are now being awarded by the state rather than the federal government, with funds being issued by the state Department of Economic and Community Development. She said the application guidelines for the grants have remained the same.

7/30/87

New Fees for Businesses

5/27/87

By Peter Kolonia

Doing business in Salisbury is about to become more expensive for many. The city is about to impose a new schedule of fees called water pre-treatment fees. They will apply to nearly all commercial Salisbury, with the exception of retailers, and will average between $300 and $1,200 annually.

They come about as a result of federal 'Clean Water' legislation that was passed in the 1970's and amended in the last session of the U.S. Congress. Large and small firms across the country must comply with laws that regulate the levels of contaminates permitted in the water discharged from their places of business. The laws require, in effect, that the water leaving a business be comparable to that which leaves the average household.

If the city is to continue receiving federal funding which supports the operation of Salisbury's wasterwater treatment plant, it must monitor area businesses to determine who is and who is not in compliance with the federally- set discharge standards. It is the cost of this monitoring that the city of Salisbury will pass along to businesses in the form of the water pretreatment fees. All businesses that produce significant wastewater discharge will be required to hold a permit. Although federal law requires the city to monitor its buisinesses by means of the permit system, the federal government will bear none of its expense.

A Big Pricetag

The monitoring is expected to cost the city about $140,000 per year, with the cost of setting up the program also expected to run about $140,000. Set-up costs include the planning and design of the pre-treatment monitoring program (which took two years of work before it was accepted by the Maryland Health Department), the cost of expanding and equipping the city's wastewater treatment laboratory, and the cost of hiring new lab technicians who will process discharge samples.

Mr. Plotts explains that there are other reasons to implement the water pretreatment program. Growth, for example. The city is at approximately 90% capacity in the amount of water it can process through its wastewater treatment plant on Fitzwater Street in Salisbury. According to Tom Plotts, if the city is to continue growing at its current rate, one of two things will have to happen: either the city will have to construct a new wastewater treatment plant at a cost of almost $2 million, or the water coming into the current water treatment facitily will have to be cleaner, so that it passes through the system more quickly.

Tip of the Iceberg

With in-coming wastewater that meets federal pre-treatment guidelines, Mr. Plotts estimates the plant will be able to process 15% more wastewater, allowing for that much more growth before a new plant is required. At the present time, water coming into the plant is often so contaminated that it has to be run through the

Continued on Page 12

water a business discharges is more contaminated than that discharged from a 'normal household,' that business will have to also pay to have its discharged water treated to meet the federal standards. This treating usually involves a holding tank in which discharged water is chemically treated to remove the offending chemicals or heavy metal contaminates.

What You Get

What, specifically, will local some comfort in the fact that they are not alone. Cities across the country are having to pay for the federally-mandated wastewater pretreatment monitoring and many are doing it through fee schedules such as the one described above.

Federal law mandates that no city can assume the cost of the monitoring, thus giving it a competitive edge over another area which passes the cost along to local businesses.

Committee Meets For War Memorial

2/87

Salisbury moved a small step closer to building a new Vietnam/Korean War memorial last week, when a committee representing veterans, local arts groups and the city met in the Government Office Building. The idea, spawned by Mr. James Agnew of East Church Street in Salisbury, originally proposed the memorial's location be on a ribbon of land on the north side of U.S. Route 50 across from the Government Office Building. (Last summer, the "Peace Gardens," as Mr. Agnew referred to the project, entered the news when it was suggested that the Fred Adkins memorial obelisk be moved from the Downtown Plaza to that proposed site.)

Photo: V. Dillehay

James Agnew with plans for the 'Peace and Freedom' Park planned for Route 50.

At last week's first meeting of an ad hoc committee formed to develop the memorial idea, it was recommended that the site be moved from the U.S. Route 50 location to one behind the Youth and Civic Center. According to Mr. Steve Eccleston, City Forester and liason between the Public Works Deparment and the group, "Some of the veterans felt that the memorial should be in a more quiet and secluded place. They felt the location should be conducive to meditation and reflection." The Civic Center was also deemed an appropriate location, because it was dedicated as a war memorial, a fact unknown to many among the general public. The proposed site behind the Civic Center is the location of the dismantled skateboard ramp.

Committee members will now approach County officials about the possiblity of acquiring the land for use as a war memorial.

Salisbury Street Names Are Chosen

4/19/87

SALISBURY — Christopher and Hannibal are the two new street names approved Monday by the Salisbury City Council.

According to city Public Works Director Thomas D. Plotts, a street running between Brittingham and Pyle Streets and intersecting the easterly end of Harrington Street was in need of a name. Using a list of names from Plotts' office, the council chose Christopher Street.

Using the same list of names, the council chose to name a small section of street between North Park Drive and Beaglin Park Drive, Hannibal Street. The motion was made by council member Robin Cockey who pointed out the historic significance of the name.

Forest Lake Annexation OK'd

4/23/87

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved a resolution annexing four acres of the Forest Lake Estate subdivision which have remained outside the city corporate limits.

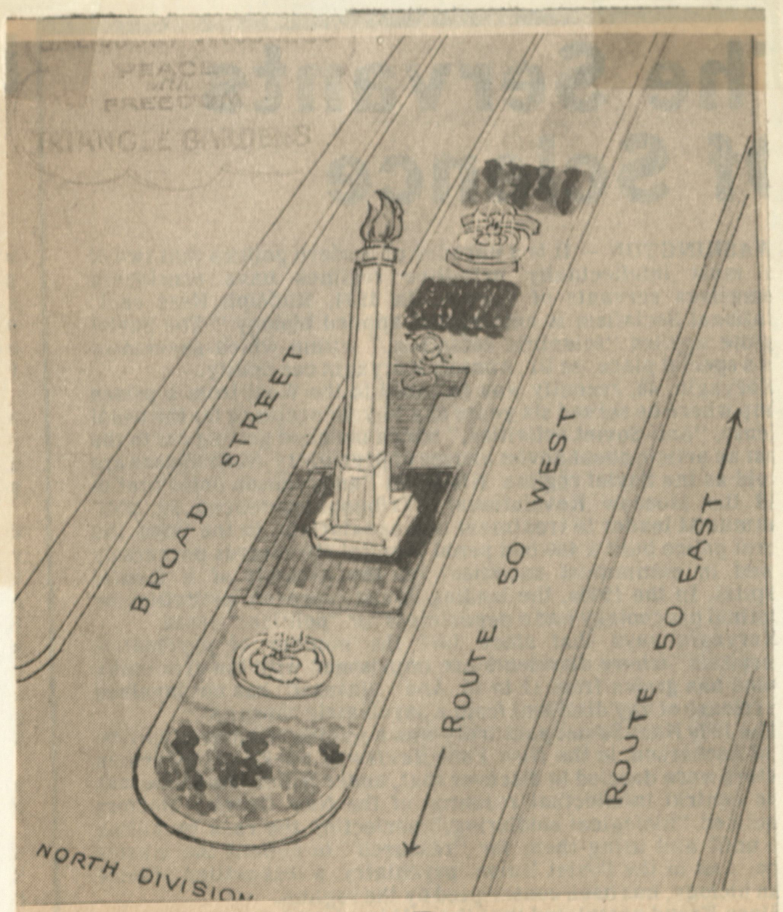
According to Realtor and developer Michael Weisner, the city annexed nine acres of the subdivision several years ago and the new annexation will result in the entire subdivision being within the corporate limits. He said the nine acres are zoned R-10 residential while the remaining four are zoned industrial and the annexation will result in the entire 13-acre property being zoned R-10.

Weisner said the remaining four acres will be developed with single residential units as are the nine acres.

Peace Park

Construction began recently on the Peace and Freedom Park that was suggested for an island on U.S. Route 50 across from the City/County Government Office Building. The site will eventually hold several gardens, a fountain and an obelisk, all dedicated to peace. The project has been husbanded by Mr. James Agnew, who 30 years ago, erected the Monument on North Salisbury Boulevard.

7/29/87



30-Year Dream

The Peace With Freedom Memorial Gardens, first designed 30 years ago by James Agnew of Salisbury, will be built on a strip of land between Route 50 and Broad Street in the Newtown area of Salisbury. Agnew said many area residents have donated money, materials, and labor for the project.

5/21/87

nam Welch told council members that two alternative housing

adjacent to
would be

there are not a threat
lic," Welch explained

UMES Provides Bus Transport to Youth Sport Camp

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore will serve as the host site of the National Youth Sports Program. The program began Monday, June 22 and will run through July 29.

Now entering its tenth year at UMES, the program offers supervised instruction to boys and girls 10-16 years of age, in swimming, football, basketball, gymnastics, softball, and tennis.

Cultural enrichment activities such as arts and crafts, g
speakers from the vari
nesses and agenci
the communit
lunch spo

ser Fees

Continued from Page 1

rning to user fees.

ood Examples

Some recent (or pending) user es are Salisbury's water pre-reatment fees, the county's re-ently established landfill tipping ee, last year's increase in Civic enter rental rates and the pend-ng building permit increases for alisbury. Although these fees will constitute a small percentage of city and county revenues for the coming fiscal year, as a source of funding they are significant. Some of them, particularly the tipping fee and the Civic Center rental costs, have been controversial.

A good example of the fiscal impact a user fee can have is found in the tipping fee charged at the County's landfill on Brick Kiln Road. Tipping fee revenues are expected to come in at $600,000 for the coming fiscal year. This is approximately 2/3rds of the solid waste disposal costs the county will incur.

Because county property taxes

known 'Proposition 13' legislation in California. This legislation, which grew out of property owner frustration, forbid the raising of property tax rates above a certain rate. In order to fund their programs, local governments had to turn to other means of funding. User fees were one of those means.)

ment's cost to the taxpayer.

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7/30/87

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875-2216
Mon-Thur 10am-
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-Treatment Fees

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ere will be approximately 360 l businesses and 25 major in-ries affected by the new pre-tment monitoring fees. The aller Salisbury businesses will lude restaurants, bottling com-nies, pest control firms, urches, printing companies, ctor's offices, service stations, otels and small manufacturers.

The city's water pre-treatment fees may only be the tip of the iceberg for some of these businesses. If it is determined that the water a business discharges is more contaminated than that discharged from a 'normal household,' that business will have to also pay to have its discharged water treated to meet the federal standards. This treating usually involves a holding tank in which discharged water is chemically treated to remove the offending chemicals or heavy metal contaminates.

What You Get

What, specifically, will local businesses be paying for when they pay their annual Permit Administration Fee? Large industries, which will pay $600 annually for the permit, will have their discharges monitored three times a year. For each wastewater sample that is retrieved and tested, the business will be billed an additional $50, and each test that has to be done to the samples will be individually charged for. As many as six tests, costing between $10.00 and $25.00 each, may be made to the wastewater samples.

Smaller businesses will be charged $150 annually for the wastewater permit, and their discharges will be monitored at least three times every two years. The same sampling and testing fees apply as for larger industries.

Salisbury businessmen can take some comfort in the fact that they are not alone. Cities across the country are having to pay for the federally-mandated wastewater pretreatment monitoring and many are doing it through fee schedules such as the one described above.

Federal law mandates that no city can assume the cost of the monitoring, thus giving it a competitive edge over another area which passes the cost along to local businesses.

Committee Meets For War Memorial

2/87

Salisbury moved a small step closer to building a new Vietnam/Korean War memorial last week, when a committee representing veterans, local arts groups and the city met in the Government Office Building. The idea, spawned by Mr. James Agnew of East Church Street in Salisbury, originally proposed the memorial's location be on a ribbon of land on the north side of U.S. Route 50 across from the Government Office Building. (Last summer, the "Peace Gardens," as Mr. Agnew referred to the project, entered the news when it was suggested that the Fred Adkins memorial obelisk be moved from the Downtown Plaza to that proposed site.)

At last week's first meeting of an ad hoc committee formed to develop the memorial idea, it was recommended that the site be moved from the U.S. Route 50 location to one behind the Youth and Civic Center. According to Mr. Steve Eccleston, City Forester and liason between the Public Works Deparment and the group, "Some of the veterans felt that the memorial should be in a more quiet and secluded place. They felt the location should be conducive to meditation and reflection." The Civic Center was also deemed an appropriate location, because it was dedicated as a war memorial, a fact unknown to many among the general public. The proposed site behind the Civic Center is the location of the dismantled skateboard ramp.

Committee members will now approach County officials about the possiblity of acquiring the land for use as a war memorial.

Photo: V. Dillehay

James Agnew with plans for the 'Peace and Freedom' Park planned for Route 50.

Salisbury Street Names Are Chosen

4/9/87

SALISBURY — Christopher and Hannibal are the two new street names approved Monday by the Salisbury City Council.

According to city Public Works Director Thomas D. Plotts, a street running between Brittingham and Pyle Streets and intersecting the easterly end of Harrington Street was in need of a name. Using a list of names from Plotts' office, the council chose Christopher Street.

Using the same list of names, the council chose to name a small section of street between North Park Drive and Beaglin Park Drive, Hannibal Street. The motion was made by council member Robin Cockey who pointed out the historic significance of the name.

Forest Lake Annexation OK'd

4/23/87

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved a resolution annexing four acres of the Forest Lake Estate subdivision which have remained outside the city corporate limits.

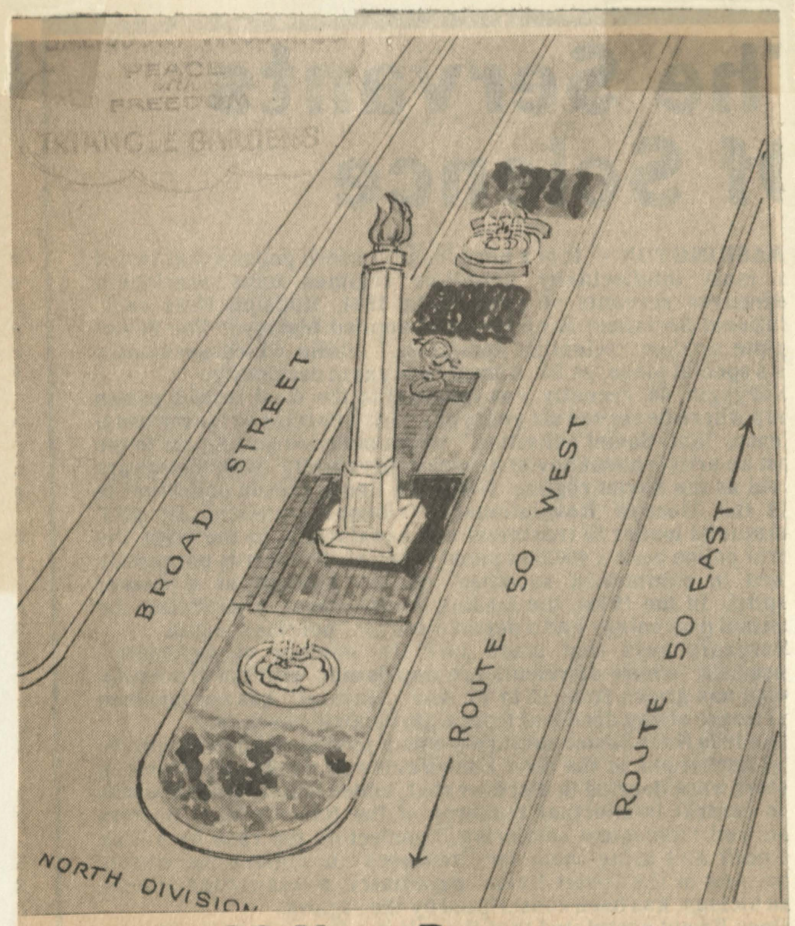
According to Realtor and developer Michael Weisner, the city annexed nine acres of the subdivision several years ago and the new annexation will result in the entire subdivision being within the corporate limits. He said the nine acres are zoned R-10 residential while the remaining four are zoned industrial and the annexation will result in the entire 13-acre property being zoned R-10.

Weisner said the remaining four acres will be developed with single residential units as are the nine acres.

Peace Park

Construction began recently on the Peace and Freedom Park that was suggested for an island on U.S. Route 50 across from the City/County Government Office Building. The site will eventually hold several gardens, a fountain and an obelisk, all dedicated to peace. The project has been husbanded by Mr. James Agnew, who 30 years ago, erected the Monument on North Salisbury Boulevard.

7/29/87



30-Year Dream

The Peace With Freedom Memorial Gardens, first designed 30 years ago by James Agnew of Salisbury, will be built on a strip of land between Route 50 and Broad Street in the Newtown area of Salisbury. Agnew said many area residents have donated money, materials, and labor for the project.

5/21/8

City Council Report

New MVA Office

State Motor Vehicle administrator Marshall Rickert described plans for the new MVA office to the City Council at its meeting of May 25th. Mr. Rickert said the state planned to move the local office from the Salisbury Shopping Center on Route 50 because that site was limited in size and 'thoroughly inadequate.' "The site is an aging facility and is becoming less and less satisfactory as time goes on," he said. The move to new quarters is part of a statewide strategy to develope offices that are specifically designed for MVA purposes.

The 16,900 square foot full service office is planned for an eight acre site on Tilghman Road, across Route 50 from the Shoppers World shopping center in East Salisbury. Rickert explained that the site was selected because it would be more easily accessible to Somerset and Worcester County residents.

The state Motor Vehicle Administration is currently accepting construction bids for the new Salisbury office. Construction is scheduled to begin in September, and the 35 employees of the old Salisbury office should be moved into the new facility by June of 1988. No new jobs will be created as a result of the newer, larger quarters.

The building will be financed by an innovative lease/lease back arrangement that essentially allows the MVA to circumvent state and federal regulations imposed on governmental operations, and get the project done sooner. Mr. Rickert said that if the state was to develop and construct the office building itself, the project could take three years to complete. As a result of the lease/leaseback arrangement, private developers could finish in as few as six months. The reason is that the government is bound by a great deal of regulations and cost-justifying red tape, which privately-developed projects do not incur.

The lease/leaseback arrangement consists of the state leasing the property (which is already owns) to the developer for $1 a year. The private developer then constucts the building and leases it back to the state when it's finished. After leasing the building for a specified period, the state has the option to purchase it.

Salisbury Mayor W. Paul Martin noted at the conclusion of the presentation, that the MVA project was the primary reason for annexing land east of Shopper's World on Route 50. Extending water and sewer services to the area could mean much new commercial and residential development for east Salisbury.

City Property Declared Surplus

6/10/8

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved declaring city property at Market Street and Camden Avenue surplus.

Requested by a developer interested in constructing an eight to 10-story residential and commercial building on the site known as Market Village, the city approved setting into motion the process for declaring municipal property surplus.

The property will be open to bid as required by a city resolution regarding surplus property in the city's central business district.

Downtown Apartment Project

6/17/87

The Council received a request from Mr. Denny Nooner of Nooner Brothers Construction in Berlin to purchase the city-owned lot at the corner of Market and Camden streets in downtown Salisbury. The lot fronts on both Market Street and the Plaza, embracing the Thomas R. Young building.

In order for the city to sell the property, it must first be declared surplus. The Council, feeling that Mr. Nooner's intentions for the property were in the best interests of downtown Salisbury and that they appeared to meet the requirements of Council Resolution 240 (which limits the ways in which city-owned property in Downtown Salisbury may be utilized), agreed to begin the process by which the lot could be sold.

According to a letter dated May 22, 1987 from Mr. Nooner to the Mayor, the lot will become the site of a "large scale residential and commercial development to be housed in in a multi-story building, approximately 8 to 10 stories."

City Council Report

Harbor Pointe

The Salisbury City Council at its meeting of Monday, June 22, approved the first reading of an ordinance that would rezone a portion of the Wicomico waterfront from industrial use to a Planned Residential District (PRD). The developers, Henry Hanna and Larry Causey & Sons, requested the PRD status in order to permit development that varies from traditional zoning requirements and better maintains the existing natural character of the area.

Harbor Pointe lies on approximately 222 acres of land on the western bank of the Wicomico River, south of the city's sewage treatment plant. It is the first full scale development attempted in the City in an area that falls within the state's Critical Areas legislation since that went into effect January 1, 1986. The developers were praised by William Livingston, director of Planning and Zoning, for submitting plans that fully conformed with Critical Areas criteria. Those criteria included the preservation of wetlands, the establishment of wildlife corridors, a minimal network of roads, 100 foot set-backs and a low unit density.

The Critical Area acreage in Harbor Pointe will be classified as a 'Limited Development Area' (LDA) according to the requirements established by that legislation. This will leave intact the 800+ acres the City has been allotted for intense development.

Phase I

The project is being built in three phases. It was Phase I, comprised of thirty-two 3.5 acre lots along the Wicomico, for which the Council gave its preliminary approval last week. Phase II and III of the project will include cluster housing and multi-family housing for the elderly along Pemberton Drive.

Although the area will be served by City sewer and water, the road system and all common areas at Harbor Pointe will be maintained by a Homeowners Association. When the project was first brought before the City Council in November 1986, the Council expressed concern about the Homeowners Association's ability and accountablity for that. Developer Henry Hanna addressed that concern last week by noting that if the Homeowners did not adequately maintain the road system, it could be fined by the City until maintenance was performed.

Mr. Hanna also discussed the proximity of the Sewage Treatment Plant, another Council concern last November. In each homeowner contract, he explained, there would be a disclaimer informing the buyer of the proximity of the plant and the possibility of unpleasant odors. To prevent this, a 1000+ foot forested buffer strip has been included between Harbor Pointe and the plant. In addition, a layer of top soil will cover an abandoned sludge pit.

Public Discussion

When the matter was opened up for public discussion, Michael H. Hickson, a resident of Cotton Patch Island approached the Council. Cotton Patch Island is a 'small development of six lots on the Wicomico River which Harbor Pointe will surround. Mr. Hickson expressed concerns about keeping the dirt road that led to Cotton Patch Island, which he described as inexpensive to maintain and an effective barrier to sightseers. He also voiced an objection to the required hook-up to city water and sewer services. Council President Robert Powell informed him the hook-up was required, within five years, by city law. "Sir," he said, "I'm sorry, but you happen to live smack in the path of progress."

Hickson told the Council of a small pond or swamp that lies between Cotton Patch Island and Harbor Pointe. The area, which he described as one of the most beautiful and ecologically active areas in Wicomico County, would, he hoped, be left untouched by the developers.

Two Annexation Resolutions OK'd

7/15/87

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved two resolutions for the proposed Culver Road annexation and the proposed Connelly Mill annexation.

The Culver Road annexation includes the Thomas A. Culver property and the Pemberton School property, the latter being necessary according to city Public Works Director Thomas Plotts for annexation continguous to the city.

The Connolly Mill annexation lies north of the city's current corporate limits and includes Adkins, Potts and Smethurst properties.

First Phase Of Subdivision OK'd

7/15

SALISBURY — Adding conditions to satisfy an adjacent neighborhood, the Salisbury City Council Monday approved the first phase of the proposed Harbor Pointe subdivision as a planned residential district.

While residents of Cotton Patch Island, adjacent to the Harbor Pointe property on the former Bell Farm, had concerns about the planned residential district, co-applicant Henry H. Hanna III said he and the other applicants were willing to satisfy the concerns.

As a result, the council approved the PRD with the conditions that a pond and swamp housing wildlife be protected by increased setbacks governing development of adjacent lots, the Cotton Patch residents be permitted to maintain private water and sewer systems, and the road running from Pemberton Drive to Cotton patch be publically maintained.

The bandstand in Salisbury's City Park.

Times Photo by Chris Estes

Sunday In The Park

EDITOR'S NOTE: This column was originally printed in August 1986.

By DICK FLEMING
Times Entertainment Editor

SALISBURY — As you walk into the city park here on a summer evening, the Sunday quiet is interrupted only by birds exchanging tuneful greetings over a chorus of gossiping crickets. You may get a feeling that you have strayed, if not into another world, at least into a corner of your own that you don't visit nearly enough.

In the distance, you can hear the familiar sound of children at play. There is occasional quacking from the ducks who share their picturesque domain with paddleboaters reveling in the last vestiges of another day as the sun slips slowly beneath the cover of a gray dusk.

Passing the horseshoe courts and crossing the footbridge under towering pines, you are aware of a welcome reprieve from the more tacky signs of modern life. The neon hum of the commercial district is supplanted by a stillness so complete you can almost hear the willows sigh their relief.

THERE IS a notable abscence of posted rules, as visitors are trusted to behave with restraint in this place of solitude. Children splash about in the lighted fountain, in defiance, perhaps, of official wishes, but in communion with a different authority, as blissfully innocent of regulation as the furry children of nature who have free run of the place.

Then, through the evening air floats the distinctive oompah and rat-a-tat of a brass band, regaling listeners with marching tunes that lift the spirit and quicken the pace of strollers.

In the heart of Salisbury, in this haven from the bustle of workaday existence, the Community Concert Band lulls its citizens with a musical interlude that, like the mournful whistle of the passing freight train and the chiming of church bells, is a rare but not yet extinct reminder of simpler times.

This year, as it has for so many years, the band meets for seven weeks to continue an almost forgotten tradition. It is not yet forgotten because people like the late Frank Reinhardt, who once headed the bank, had a notion that such a fine tradition ought not be lost.

A dedication plaque that rests at the foot of the band pavilion is one testament to Frank Reinhardt's efforts; the ongoing Sunday evening concert is another.

TO ATTEND these concerts is to be transported to another era, when places like Nicaragua and Libya seemed far, far away, and places like Grover's Corner and River City could have existed at the end of any town's main street.

What a remarkable revelation to discover in our midst a place that exists for the most part today only in the memories of old-timers, and the hearts of poets and playwrights for whom heritage is both an anchor to the past and a lifeline to the future.

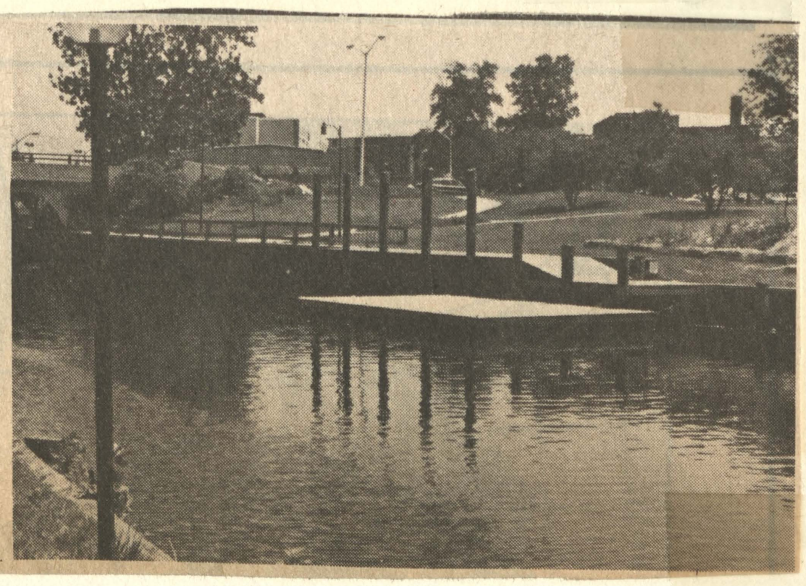
There is something about this tradition that instills a comforting feeling of childhood innocence. People of all ages gather leisurely on blankets, park benches and lawn chairs around the pavilion; children — and even a few adults — flock to swings and seesaws; romance blossoms beneath a serenade of Sousa.

As the concert draws to a close, you begin a lazy retreat back to a world that is no longer carefree — if indeed, it ever really was — steeled for the challenges of a new week, and at peace with the knowledge that, for the moment, all is well.

The Salisbury Community Concert Band season opens with a performance Saturday, July 4, and continues each Sunday from July 12 through Aug. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

On The Waterfront

Boyd Dolbey, owner of Dolbey Marine Inc. of Nanticoke watches in the foreground as Charles Dolbey drives bulkheading along the Wicomico River near Carroll Street in Salisbury. The company expects to finishing the $50,000 bulkheading and floating dock project, funded through grants from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, in about two weeks. (Times Photo by Milt Savage)



A New Dock

Boaters who use the East Branch in Salisbury were pleased to discover the new floating dock recently installed near the intersection of Carroll Street and Waverly Drive. The dock, which was paid for by a state waterway improvement grant, is for launching small craft and racing shells. It was installed by Dolby Marine.

7/1/87

Commercial District Fees Urged

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The campaign continues to convince businesses they should pay licensing fees to be part of a Commercial District Management Authority.

The Salisbury R/UDAT Action Group Thursday will receive a third of a $12,500 state grant for the creation of a CDMA. To receive the remainder, RAG must convince at least 50 percent of the businesses in the proposed commercial district that licensing fees will benefit the area's economy.

RAG and the Downtown Salisbury Association began the campaign for a CDMA in May and Downtown Salisbury Revitalization Office Director Jenifer Kajencki said the two groups are hoping to have the ordinance creating the CDMA ready for city council approval in October. The authority would require licensing of retail and professional businesses in the designated area — bounded by Fitzwater Street, Lake Street and Route 50 to the north; Route 13 to the east; Carroll Street and Riverside Drive to the south and Wicomico Street and Chesapeake Shipbuilding to the west.

REQUIRING BUSINESSES in the district to pay for licenses, Kajencki said, will result in a unified effort to revitalize the city"s business district. Goals of the CDMA include a central management system, strengthening the district's economic base and coordinating promotional activites.

Kajencki said she has received approval from almost 100 businesses in the designated area and is hoping to get more than the required 50 percent of the 250 district-located businesses. She said about five businesses said they would remain neutral about the CDMA proposal and 10 remain opposed to the proposal because they believe it is another level of taxation and financial aid to the revitalization effort should be voluntary, not mandatory.

Unlike other municipal taxes, Kajencki said, the CDMA license affords a business the privilege to vote on management issues
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THE NEWSPAPER cannot be responsible for unsolicited photographs and manuscripts.

The advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for the space actually occupied by that portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred, whether such error is due to the negligence of the publisher's servants or otherwise, and there shall be no liability for non-insertion of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement.

B

City To Receive State CDMA Grant

8/26/87

Jacquelin H. Rogers, Secretary of Housing and Community Development, last week announced that the City of Salisbury would recieve a state check for $3600 on behalf of the State of Maryland. The check will represent the first installment of a $12,000 matching grant, made through DHCD's Main Street Center program, part of the Division of Community Assistance.

The grant will help the City of Salisbury establish a commercial district manager authority (CDMA) in downtown Salisbury. Through its CDMA, Salisbury will establish a special assessment district to manage and promote its ongoing downtown revitalization program.

Though DHCD was established only in July of this year, the state had had an ongoing partnership with the city of Salisbury since the early 1970's through its Maryland Main Street program. The state has supplied technical and design assistance, organzational help and promotional assistance toward Salisbury's downtown Plaza, and the Riverwalk Park.

"The rebirth of downtown Salisbury is a wonderful example of what government and local initiative can accomplish," noted Secretary Rogers, in announcing the CDMA grant.

"This grant will give the downtown Salisbury merchants and local authorities the incentive and the power to continue to revitalize their whole area," she added.

The CDMA grant will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the City of Salisbury and the private sector.

Council Increases Assessment Fees

SALISBURY — Rising construction costs for water and sewer construction prompted the Salisbury City Council Monday to vote for an increase in front foot assessments.

City Director of Public Works Thomas D. Plotts told the council the 1985 $31 per foot construction cost had risen to a current figure of $39 per foot.

City residents front foot assessments would be increased from $7.75 per foot to $9.75 per foot. Those who live outside the city limits but are tied in to city sewer and water will pay $19.50 per foot.

8/25/87

Change Of Venue Sought In Salisbury Suit

9/2/87

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Whether a law suit filed by the city against the Downtown Salisbury Limited Partnership is heard in Wicomico County Circuit Court is the next phase of a legal battle which has snagged the progress of the city's westside revitalization project.

The Downtown Salisbury Limited Partnership, the development firm which was to construct the retail/restaurant complex adajcent to the city marina as part of the westside revitalization project, is being sued by the city for breach of contract. The partnership last week filed a "motion for removal" of the suit from the jurisdiction of the Wicomico County Circuit Court.

The reasons for the motion include the publicity the revitalization project has received in the Salisbury news media.

City Solicitor Robert Eaton said he will file another motion by Sept. 8 defending holding the trial in Wicomico County.

According to documents filed in circuit court by the partnership's attorneys, "there are more than sufficient grounds to believe that Downtown Salisbury Limited Partnership would not be able to obtain a fair and impartial trial by jury in Wicomico County in the suit brought by the city of Salisbury."

Attached to the documents are newspaper clippings from *The Daily Times* dating back to January, 1985.

An affadavit by the general partner, Joseph Schwartz, which is attached to the documents, states "Given the City of Salisbury's appearance as the plaintiff in this case, the past publicity which has stressed the importance of the redevelopment project to the citizens of Wicomico County, the predictable involvement of prominent politicians and civic leaders in the conduct of this case, and the future publicity which will surround the progress of this litigation, I respectively suggest that Downtown Salisbury Limited Partnership will not be able to have a fair and impartial trial of this suit before a jury in Wicomico County."

The suit brought against the developer maintains the contract to develop the land adjacent to the marina was breached. The suit asks that the agreement between the city and the developer be declared null and void as of May 15, 1987 and that relief be given the city in the amount of $1 million.

According to the suit, the city maintains the developer did not meet the 120-day deadline or a second, 30-day deadline to purchase the land from the city and proceed with construction of the proposed retail/restaurant complex.

Firm To Perform Water Study

SALISBURY — City officials here recently selected the Salisbury firm of Davis, Bowen & Friedel Inc., to perform a computerized modeling of the water system. With the rapid growth in Salisbury, Public Works Director Thomas Plotts opted for the analysis to both plan for future services and establish areas requiring service improvements.

Salisbury is planning construction of new elevated storage facilities in the near future. The system model will aid in selecting the size and best location for the structure.

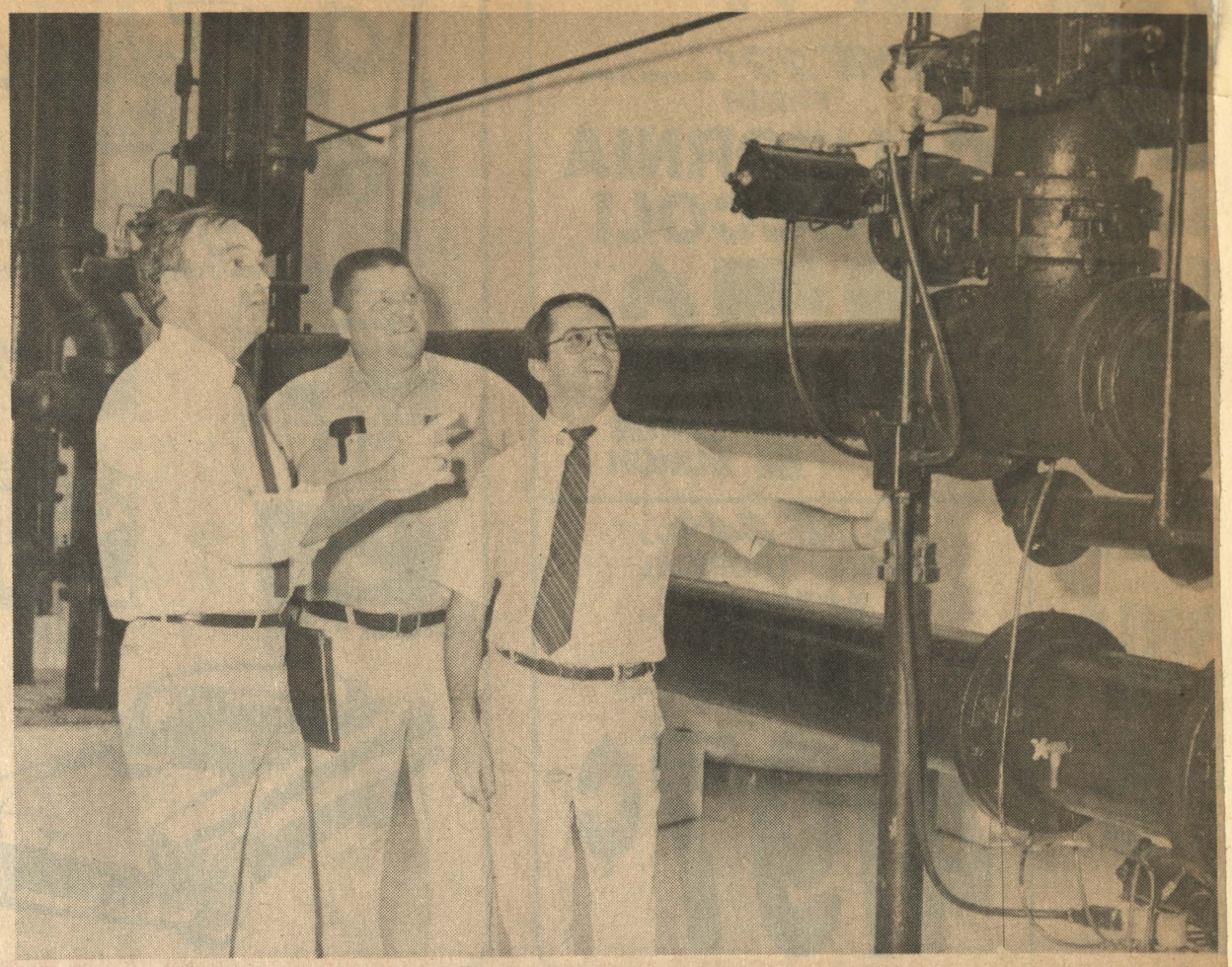
Davis, Bowen & Friedel Inc., is a local architectural/engineering firm located on the second floor of One Plaza East. The firm has recently completed design of a multi-million dollar water system improvements project in Milford.

Modeling of that system resulted in substantial cost savings and an efficient network design, a spokesman said.

Davis, Bowen & Friedel Inc., will establish a fundamental model of the present Salisbury water system. Consideration will be given to current water usage, both domestic and industrial. Pump capacities, tank sizes and the age of each primary water main will be incorporated in the model.

With the help of city staff, the model will be calibrated through hydrant flow tests, the spokesman said.

Once complete, city personnel will be trained on the use and updating procedures of the model. Future capital improvements and system expansions will use the computer model results.



WATER STUDY. Mathew J. Aydelotte Jr., left, of Davis, Bowen & Friedel Inc., discusses the city of Salisbury water plant piping arrangement with George Thomas, plant superintendent, center, and Tom Plots, public works director.

Rubbish Collection Is Offered In Salisbury

4/23/87

SALISBURY — Rubbish removal from private lots within the City of Salisbury has become a concern among city residents and government officials alike. In response to the needs of the citizenry, Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr. and Public Works Director Thomas D. Plotts have announced a plan to aid in the elimination of rubbish.

The Public Works Department has historically responded to special pickup requests and in conjunction with the fire marshal's office conducted spring and fall clean-up programs. City officials say that this particular service to residents may be unknown. The Public Works Department will expand and organize the rubbish pickup program to meet the needs of Salisbury, according to city officials.

Effective immediately, any residential unit occupant may request free Wednesday pickup of rubbish by calling the Department of Public Works Service Center at 548-3177. The resident is responsible for the following:

- Call the Service Center before noon Tuesday for a Wedneday pickup.
- State name, address and telephone number where someone responsible can be reached during the work day.
- Place the rubbish at the curb on the Tuesday prior to pickup.
- Bundle such items as sticks and newspapers for easier handling.
- Likewise, break down heavy items as much as possible to aid in lifting.

For those residents who are physically handicapped or otherwise unable to bring the rubbish to the curb and have no relative or occupant of that house available or able to place the rubbish at the curb, special arrangements will be made by the City Public Works Department.

This policy will also enhance the automated garbage pickup program that will be initiated this fall and be completed during the next 3 to 4 years, city officials said.

Market Village Bid Approved

8/14/87

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved the bid award for surplus Market Village property to Developer Dennis Nooner Jr., who is proposing a retirement community for the site.

When the proposal was first introduced by Nooner, council members said the property would have to be put out to be bid. Mayor W. Paul Martin on Monday said Nooner's $250,000 bid was the only one submitted and the discrepency between the assesser's value of $9.70 and Nooner's $9.50 should not deter the awarding of the bid for such a worthwhile project.

According to Nooner's proposal, the eight-story Parkplaza Retirement Complex will serve people 65 years and older, targeting people who already live in their own homes. The complex will include the renovation of the Thomas R. Young Building and will include such amenities as an enclosed parking garage, a grocery store and commercial and retail rental space.

10-4-87

Sewage Plant Gets Improvements

SALISBURY — Improvements to the City of Salisbury Sewage Treatment Plant have been started according to Public Works Director Thomas D. Plotts. A $5.5 million project, funded in part by the Environmental Protection Agency Maryland State Health Department, was awarded to the low bidder, L.A. Merrell, Inc. of Hartley, Del.

Plant improvements include increased chlorine contact time to assure disinfection, dechlorination and post aeration for better aquatic life supporting characteristics. Plant process changes include a new grit removal and a new phosphorous removal system.

Also include are piping changes, support/maintenance facility improvements, trickling filter modifications and a sludge disposal program. Improvements of the major operational aspects to the plant are scheduled to be completed by June 30, 1988 and the remainder of the work by January, 1989.

During construction, some processes will have to be interrupted or altered which may cause some odor problems. No treatment processes will be completely bypassed and all flow will be disinfected prior to discharge.

Salisbury To Get Historic Trees

SALISBURY — Mayor W. Paul Martin Jr. along with Public Works Director Thomas D. Plotts have announced that Salisbury has been chosen as one of 70 communities throughout the country to be the recipient of historic tree groves to commemorate the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution.

As part of the American Forestry Association's National Big Tree Program, which records the largest specimens of native tree species, AFA is making these historic grove packages available to select communities for commemorative plantings on public land.

AFA located historic trees in different growing regions to make this program available to as many communities as possible. The trees were grown from seeds of trees connected with the country's birth, development and founding fathers.

Trees available will be such as trees from the black walnut trees growing on George Washington's Mount Vernon property. Those black walnut trees were likely to have been planted by Washington himself. Other tree offsprings will be from such trees as the Wye Oak and the Liberty (Willow Oak) Tree in Milledgeville, Ga.

Communities submitted an application to AFA confirming that they met specific requirements for the nurturing and long-term care of the historic seedlings. After a few years of "nursery" care, the trees will be ready for planting in a public place. These trees being bred from stock with excellent longevity will be around for many years for the enrichment of future generations of Salisbury, Martin said.

10-4-87

Developers Withdraw Purchase Agreement

By GREG BASSETT
Of The Times Staff

10/13/87

SALISBURY — The developers of a luxury retirement complex, set for construction on the west end of the downtown plaza, have been forced to withdraw their agreement with the city to purchase land for the project due to legal entanglements.

Salisbury attorney Raymond S. Smethurst Jr., representing the development firm owned by Dennis Nooner Sr., told the City Council Monday his client had "run into too many problems" under the original purchase agreement with the city and said he was afraid his clients would be unable to fulfill the demands of the lenders as well as certain deed requirements.

The land, a vacant spot next to the Vernon Powell shoe store on the plaza, was formerly used as a community outdoor theater and is now used mostly as a municipal parking lot. It was purchased by the Nooner family in July, after the city declared it surplus property.

City Solicitor Robert A. Eaton said the city was required to advertise the property's sales availability for 60 days, but the Nooners' bid was accepted after 38 days.

The council agreed to accept the Nooners' withdrawal and will re-advertise the property's availability immediately.

Smethurst said his client is still "very much interested" in rebidding for the land and intends to proceed with the retirement project, named Market Village.

Eaton said that in the event of a bidding war on the land, the city could possibly accept a lower offer from a developer proposing the most suitable plan for the land.

Street Repairs Set In Salisbury

SALISBURY — Starting Tuesday, the city of Salisbury will begin street reconstruction on Mill Street from Route 50 to West Isabella Street. The work involved will include track siding removals, cold milling of the existing street surface and repaving.

The work is expected to take four to five weeks to complete, a spokesman said. Some minor detouring of traffic is to be expected with the work.

Access to local businesses in the construction area will be maintained at all times.

10/31/87

Compiled By Times Staff

SALISBURY — Maryland State Highway Administration officials met with officials of all three Lower Shore counties Tuesday to discuss plans to alleviate traffic congestion and improve highway safety on the Shore. There was some disagreement, however, between state and local officials in at least one instance over the severity of the problem.

10/87

Wicomico

In Salisbury, SHA Director Hal Kassoff outlined plans for a new bridge bypassing Vienna across the Nanticoke River and a long-awaited U.S. Route 50 bypass around Salisbury.

Representatives of the Wicomico County Council, the county's state legislative delegation and other local officials were told the Salisbury bypass will take at least five years to complete, at a cost of more than $58 million.

Kassoff said the state favors the southernmost of four proposed bypass routes, all of which would bypass Salisbury to the north. The county council, the Salibury City Council and the county legislative delegation are all on record supporting that route, known as Alternative 4, which would run parallel to Naylor Mill Road through the industrial park.

Bypass construction is scheduled to begin in February, following a public hearing on the location in January.

Control Salisbury Street Lights

10/27

Computer Could C

By CHRIS ESTES
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Stop. Wait. Go to the next light. Repeat.

It may seem like an endless cycle, those red lights. They get you all the time — but most often when you're in a hurry.

Maybe it's because most of the lights in Salisbury — along Route 50 and Route 13 — are controlled by the State Highway Administration. They plot to make us spend 30 minutes driving two miles to work. They want to steal 30 minutes we could sleep.

Not so, said Alfred Budnichuk, of the State Highway Department in Salisbury. He said Route 13 and 50 are each on a timer that sets "directional programs" — meaning at certain times southbound traffic has priority on Route 13 and perhaps eastbound traffic will be moving quickest on Route 50. This is to relieve the heaviest flows of traffic.

Currently a project is under way to hook both 13 and 50 to computer systems, so adjustment of traffic can be more precise. That, according to Budnichuk, should be complete within one or two years. The lights will then be controlled both by computer in Salisbury and Baltimore.

Budnichuk said Route 50 red lights last either 100 or 120 seconds. On Route 13 the lights vary from 100 and 120 to 140 seconds. Green lights vary according to the number of "protected" flows of direction at an intersection, and yellow lights are adjusted to fit the speed limit.

Here you come into the complications of contolling the flow of traffic, Budnichuk said. For instance, where Carroll Street intersects with Route 13, the red light may last for 140 seconds because, with protected left turns, there are six protected movements of traffic.

But, down the road, Vine Street intersects Route 13. If Carroll Street has 140-second red lights, then Vine Street has to have 140-second red lights, Budnichuk said. He said variations have been tried, such as giving Vine Street 70-second red lights, but that just complicated the main flow — down Route 13.

"It takes years to do this," Budnichuk said. "You don't just go out there and pop up a light."

There are some traffic lights controlled by Salisbury. These lights come under the jurisdiction of Newell "Chip" Messick, Deputy Director of Public Works.

He said Salisbury has some fairly new technology — and some fairly old technology — in the lights they run. He also said the city is trying to get funding to upgrade not only the lights, but other areas of traffic flow control, such as signs and pavement markings.

Paddle Boat License Awarded

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday night agreed to again award Salisbury businessman Robert L. Culver Jr. a non-exclusive license to operate paddle boats in the city park.

Culver said he currently operates 15 of the popular boats, but sometimes has more boats brought in on busy weekends. He said the paddle boat season usually runs from Easter through October.

Culver said he was "pleased the paddle boats have been so well accepted."

11/24/87

New Refuse Collection Is Big Change

Because of the very nature of human nature, change often comes slowly; sometimes even with difficulty.

A current example is the City of Salisbury's gradual phase-in or what it calls "automated refuse collection." It began this week in this writer's neighborhood.

When the city delivered new 95-gallon black plastic containers to this neighborhood there were very clear instructions. They were to be used beginning last Monday.

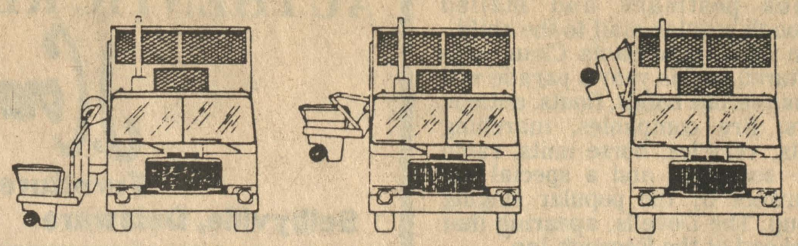
Some householders put them out before that. Others used them at the proper time but also put alongside of them their own garbage cans and plastic bags.

The new $95,000 truck's giant hydraulic claw can pick up only the containers, and only on the right side of the truck. The city wisely followed the new truck with an old one with a three-man crew to pick up the pieces, so to speak.

This city's trash collection over the years has been excellent. Trash-littered streets are an exception, and when you see one it's usually the fault of the people who put out the trash. The city has been picking up cartons of trash along with the garbage in metal containers.

The new system is a sharp change from older practices. Public acceptance has been a mixed bag, said Newell "Chip" Messick, deputy director of public works. Citing built-in resistance to change, he's confident that in time everyone will do it properly.

ALL TOLD, he said, the city has an initial investment of some $300,000 in the program, two trucks and containers. In time, he said, more trucks will be needed. Some 5,000 containers will be required to cover the city. There are several sizes, and the 440-gallon size for apartments cost up to $180 a piece.



Automated Refuse Collection

The city began a few months ago with apartments on the edge of town and it plans to move into town to include multi-family and single-family residences.

Scratch Pad
By DICK MOORE

The advantages of automated collection are apparent. One man on a new truck can do the work of three. Unneeded employees can be diverted to other city needs. With one truck doing the work of three, there's a savings in fuel and maintenance.

Of benefit to householders is the fact they no longer have to buy their own containers, though it's suggested that wet garbage be placed in plastic bags before it is tossed into the new containers. Many private collectors now use automated systems.

Wind may be a problem. Securing them is the householder's responsibility. At apartments three-sided shelters are used. At this house, high winds one day blew the empty container across the backyard. Better secure it, though you can't at curbside. Bring it in as soon as possible.

Beyond automation, though, there's still a nagging problem. It's one that is common across the entire country. Most trash, automated or not, goes to a landfill. They have come under suspicion of fouling the ground water we drink.

The answer is separation of trash, sorting out things like glass and cardboard for recycling. This goes on informally at Wicomico County landfills and transfer stations. "It's a very labor intensive problem," said Rai Sharma, the county's director of public works.

SHARMA SAID that in the first 11 months of this year, 800 tons of cardboard have been recycled with prices in the $50-per-ton range. "That's been profitable," he said.

Ideally, Sharma went on, householders could separate their own refuse, placing it in several containers. "It's an idea I'd like to see fly," he said.

It's an idea, of course, that's going to take a lot of education. But as towns and counties run out of space for landfills, and with new ones costing millions of dollars, it's an idea whose time may finally come.

Public officials like to dispose of refuse at the lowest cost per ton. Until the public is ready to assist, elected officials are understandably cautious. Who among them wants to be known as the man or woman "who made us sort garbage?" Especially in an election year!

If and when that time comes, the education process could make the city's current simple rules for automated refuse collection seem like simple ABCs. Especially in "push button" America.

Reminder Given On Leaf Regulations

SALISBURY — There are several things Salisbury officials would like its citizens to remember regarding leaves.

First, under state law, it is illegal to burn leaves where collection is provided. The city of Salisbury will collect leaves as part of its regular bi-weekly collection or Wednesday rubbish pickup if they are placed at the curb in garbage cans, baskets or heavy duty plastic bags. Residents should call the City Service Center at (301) 548-3177 by noon Tuesday to arrange for a pick-up of rubbish on Wednesday.

In the past, some citizens have raked leaves into the street. This practice is unlawful under Chapter 136 of the City Code because piles of leaves in the street constitute a driving hazard particularly when wet, and they clog storm drain systems. The Public Works Department intends to enforce this section of the City Code, a spokesman said.

11/1/87

Salisbury Council Accepts Bid For Project On Plaza

11/2/87

By GREG BASSETT
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council voted Monday night to accept a $250,000 bid for city surplus land near the downtown plaza and accepted the developers' plans to build an eight-story retirement community on the site.

The council agreement, however, does not finalize a sale between the city and the Dennis Nooner family. Other interested parties have until Dec. 14 to submit competing bids which outline use for the property, according to City Attorney Robert Eaton. The Nooners are the only bidders thus far.

The Nooners plan to build the retirement complex on the downtown corner site of the old Thomas R. Young Building on Market Street and the city parking lot behind it. Expected to cost approximately $6 million, the facility would feature a small retail center, 94 apartment units and a parking garage.

Dennis Nooner Jr. said the targeted market for the retirement complex, which will be named Park Plaza, would be local residents. He said some interest was expected from out of town people looking to retire in Salisbury, but "the main emphasis" would be to attract people from the Salisbury-Wicomico County area.

All of the building's residential units will be rental units, Nooner said. Rents will range from $500 to $2,000 per month and will include all meals, utilities and fees.

The developers were forced to resubmit their bid and plans for the land when the city previously accepted the Nooners'. first bid before a 60-day advertising period had expired. Eaton said the city was carefully following the correct procedure this time.

Nooner attorney Raymond S. Smethurst Jr. called the project "a great thing for Salisbury."

SPECIAL NOTICE
CITY OF SALISBURY, MD.

Special arrangements have been made to collect holiday wrappings and boxes in addition to normal garbage on the regular collection days beginning December 21 and ending January 8. These materials should be placed in boxes, baskets or cans in such a way that they can be easily handled. Garbage must be placed in regular containers.

Automated pickup customers with extra items please hold for normal rubbish pickup.

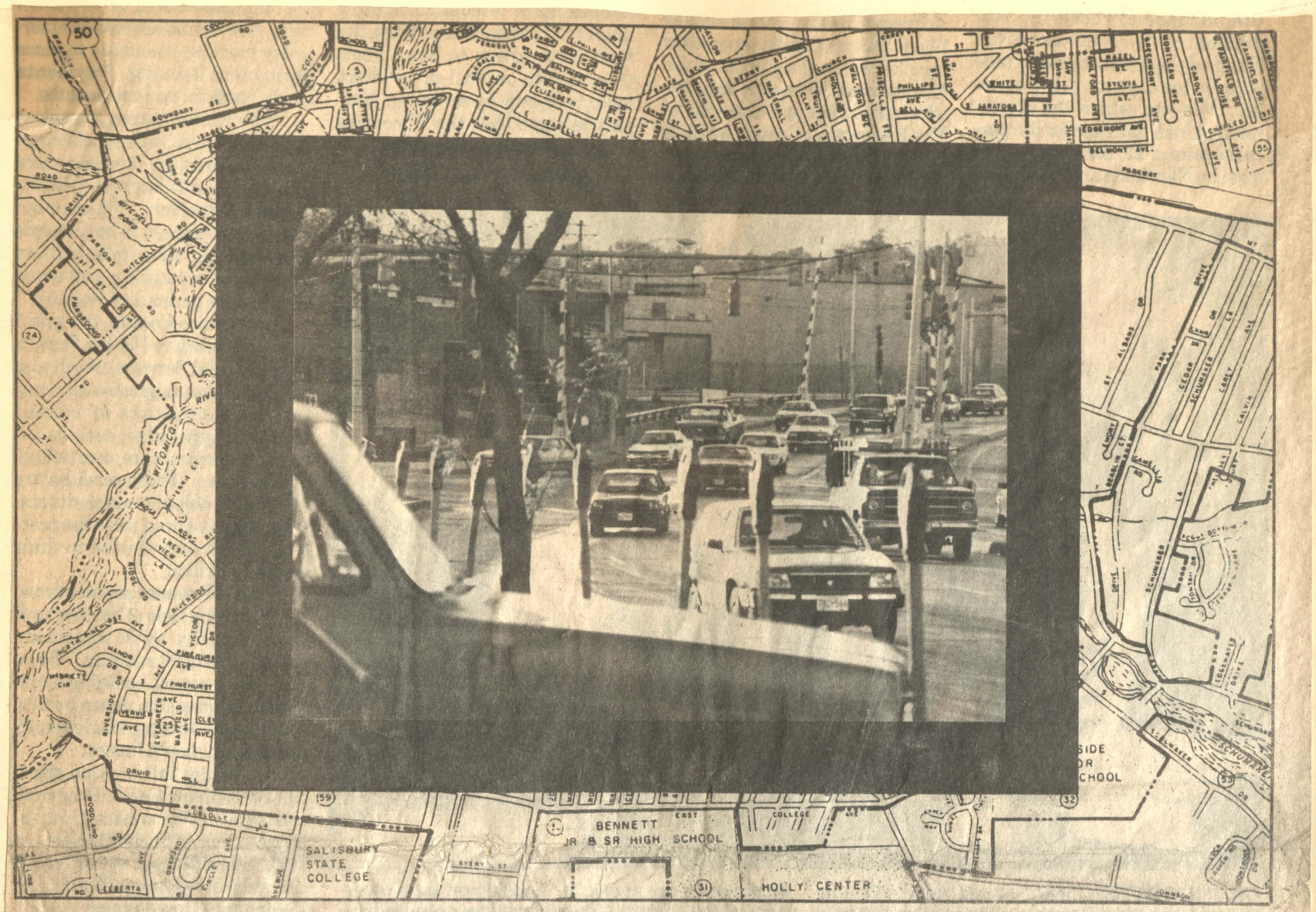
Due to changes in pick-up routes from December 24 through January 8 materials for pick-up should be at the curb by 8:00 A.M. Normal garbage regulations will be in effect after January 8.

December 25 and Jan. 1 are City holidays; therefore, there will be no garbage collection on these days and City offices will be closed.

The Municipal Zoo will be closed on December 25, Christmas Day.

Christmas trees will be picked up in a special collection from January 4 through 8, 1987.

Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year
MAYOR, COUNCILMEN and EMPLOYEES



Comprehensive Traffic Study Planned For City of Salisbury

11/11/87

By Peter Kolonia

Traffic problems are a subject of unflagging interest for Salisburians. Hardly a week goes by that there isn't a call into the *Advertiser's* "My Two Cents" line about a dangerous intersection, street or stoplight. The City of Salisbury, in response to the traffic problems known to exist locally, is currently seeking state and federal help to conduct a major study over the next several months of its streets, intersections and traffic patterns.

"What we have," explains Salisbury Public Works Director, Thomas D. Plotts. "are a lot of little problems. If you solve a little problem with a little solution, you end up chasing problems all over town. We're looking for a more comprehensive solution to the multitude of problems that we have, and that's why we're proposing this study."

The study, which may cost as much as $100,000, will offer one of the most comprehensive looks at Salisbury traffic ever undertaken. It should commence sometime this winter, with the final results and recommendations coming in the spring. The study will go beyond the the last study done in1975 by looking at Salisbury streets and overall traffic patterns, rather than just intersections, as was then the case. In addition to improved traffic lights, access points, traffic routing, the study is expected to recommend better signage that should aid traffic flow and reduce the number of accidents on Salisbury's streets.

complaints about city streets and traffic patterns will be examined during the study

One of the specific problems that the study will examine will be high accident intersections. Mr. Plotts mentioned a few: East Vine and Snow Hill Road (ironically, the location of the Holloway Funeral Home); East Vine and Eastern Shore Drive; U.S. 13 and North Division Street (known as 'the ramp'); and the Isabella Street, West Road and Delaware Avenue area by the Campbell Soup plant.

Another particular problem the study will address is the over-use of residential through-streets for heavier-than-intended cross-town traffic. These streets include Isabella, Camden Avenue, North Division Street, Church Street and Priscilla Street. According to Mr. Plotts, by improving signage and

continued on page 8

A Transit System For Salisbury?

If you lived in Salisbury in the 1940s, you might remember the city bus system. It carried shoppers and workers to and from the center of town. Buses were often full on Friday and Saturday nights. Following the war, locals bought automobiles and the bus system floundered. Not until 20 years later were there buses on the streets of Salisbury again. This venture never took off and came to a quiet end.

The Salisbury area has grown much in the ensuing period of time and there is again interest in some type of public transportation system.

Already some forms of transportation are being provided in the greater Salisbury area by organizations like Shore Up, which transport the elderly and handicapped in the area; Holly Center, Perdue, the Department of Social Services and Deers Head Center. Even Salisbury State College provides shuttle buses to move its students around town. State monies pay for much of the transportation available here today. The Wicomico County Council will soon ask for a consultant to look into the transportation needs of the area and report back in about six months. Some wonder if the state monies already being spent can be combined to provide perhaps one particular type of transportation system. One suggestion has even been to include local taxi cabs in some type of system where the state would pay for part of the costs and regular loops could be set up to provide rides.

Funding is available from both the state and the federal governments for a local transportation system. But first a study must be made to prove that a public transportation system is needed.

The study is long overdue. With the rapid growth experienced in the area over the past 20 years, there seems to be a definite need for some type of system. Hiring a consultant to suggest which way to go is the right thing to do.

A Salisbury Milestone

1-7-88

With the creation last week of a Commercial District Management Authority for downtown Salisbury (see story, page 1), that area – once this town's heart – stands before what may be another commercial and residential renaissance. With its ability to assess licensing fees of downtown businesses, the new promotional authority will have nearly double the budget of its predecessor, the Downtown Revitalization Office. In addition to funding, it will enjoyed increased human resources with a new Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

Although the Revitalization Office has spent many long hours on it, the *real* work associated with the CDMA is only just beginning. It is now executive director Jenifer Kajencki's job and the job of CDMA Executive Committee to turn that $85,000+ budget and the sea of bureaucratic acronyms associated the area (RUDAT, RAG, CDMA, CBD, etc) into a more living, vital and vibrant downtown Salisbury.

It's a huge task, but one which all Salisbury can support. The downtown area is one of the most architecturally distinctive and charming areas of the County, perhaps on the lower Shore. It represents an asset of Salisbury's collective legacy that is sorely underused and underappreciated. The task of realizing the full potential that exists there will call for an intimate knowledge of people, architecture, traffic, commerce, promotion and a mountain of state-of-the-art marketing savvy.

Although it is one before which most mortals might cringe, the two-fisted folks downtown have positioned themselves to build a blooming new commercial and residential center right where one belongs, in the heart of Salisbury.

Peter Kolonia

Traffic Study

continued from page 1

traffic routing, those cars traveling to Fruitland on Camden Avenue, for example, could be moved over to Salisbury Boulevard or the Eastern Shore Drive, both of which were designed to accommodate heavy cross-town traffic, while Camden Avenue was not.

(Public Works director Plotts indicated that travelers going east or west in Salisbury, will not have to wait for the results of the current survey to see an improvement in cross-town traffic. The State Highway Department is presently installing a new state-of-the-art traffic system on U.S. Route 50 in which the signals will be operated by a centralized computer. That computer will have an 'electronic overview' of all the traffic on the Route 50 corridor, and because of that expanded overview, delays can be avoided before they happen. Previously, each intersection along Rt. 50 worked independently of the others. The improved traffic flow expected on that east/west thoroughfare, should make it a more attractive alternative, relieving pressure on the parallel residential streets, such as Isabella.)

The traffic study, which is expected to begin this winter, is currently being studied itself by the Department of Transportation in Annapolis. The administrators there are determining which governmental agencies will pay what percentage of its cost. Tom Plotts expects the study, which will be conducted by a consulting firm of the State's choice, to cost between $50,000 and $100,000. The City of Salisbury has $25,000 budgeted for its share.

When the study begins, it's expected to employ, at times, as many as twenty traffic experts for three or four months. They will conduct: Destination Studies to determine traffic flow and volume; Time Delay Studies to discover where the traffic holdups are (By converting lost time into dollars using a standard equation, the consultants can determine whether a traffic improvement is cost-justified); and Quadrant Studies to determine whether areas are used for through-traffic or as destinations. This is important in designing street layout and signage.

The results of the studies mentioned in the previous paragraph will be fed into a computer which will construct a comprehensive computer model of Salisbury traffic patterns. When the model is complete, traffic engineers will be able to create 'what it?' scenarios to determine which of several alternate traffic solutions would be the most effective. The use of this computer modeling technique – never before applied to the Salisbury traffic system – may produce some unexpected, cost-effective solutions to traffic problems Salisburians have begrudgingly lived with for years.

Mr. Plotts, who hopes to be able to include some of these suggested improvements in the 1988/89 Public Works budget, concluded a recent interview by saying the traffic study was necessary because Salisbury "is experiencing growing pains. In some cases, we're starting to encounter 'big city' problems related to traffic volume that are not going to simply go away. If anything, they may get worse."

Tree Arrives

Salisbury city workers, with the assistance of Adams Crane Rental, position a 25-foot tree on the Downtown Plaza Thursday. The tree, donated by Joseph and Barbara Sabo of Hebron, will be decorated for the annual lighting ceremony to be held Friday, Nov. 27.
(Times Photo)

1987

Council OKs Commercial District Authority Plan

12/15/87

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council has approved the creation of a Commercial District Management Authority to coordinate the downtown revitalization program here.

The council approved on first reading Monday night an ordinance to establish the Authority and set up a Central Salisbury Revitalization District.

The ordinance also provides for licensing fees to fund the CDMA's activities promoting the downtown business district. Supporters of the proposal said a mandatory licensing fee was needed to assure that every business contributes its fair share to revitalization and marketing efforts previously supported by local government and contributions.

No one voiced an objection to the ordinance during the public hearing. According to Downtown Revitalization Office Executive Director Jenifer Kajencki, 135 of the 189 businesses included in the district responded to cards her office sent to determine support for the proposal. She said 117 supported the plan, while 18 were against it.

THE DISTRICT boundaries were recently changed to exclude most of the Riverside Drive businesses orginally included. Kajencki said the new district is bounded by Route 13, Route 50, Mill Street and parts of Fitzwater Street, Riverside Drive and Carroll Street.

Kajencki said the original boundaries were changed because her office did not have sufficient time to develop support for the Riverside Drive portion of the original proposal. She also said some people believed the original proposal was "stretching the downtown boundaries."

With the efforts of the Downtown Salisbury Association and the R/UDAT office under one umbrella, businesses will be assessed licensing fees and take an active role in the CDMA, including having a vote on the Authority's budget, Kajencki said. Fees, based on square footage, will range from $200 to $900 for retail licenses and $75 to $150 for professional and service licenses.

WHILE COUNCIL members supported the district plan, Councilwoman Martha Graham said she would like to see the CDMA eventually become self-supporting, and asked when the city could reduce the $40,000 it budgets Kajencki's office. Kajencki said she hopes the CDMA will reduce the need for government funding, but for reductions to begin right away would result in the CDMA being in the same monetary position as the revitalization office now is.

Councilman Robin Cockey suggested an amendment requiring a review of the CDMA's performance in two or three years to determine whether the business district is a viable endeavor. However, DSA President Nancy Carragher argued that such an amendment would make future investors in the downtown area wary about the commitment to revitalization and hesitant to invest until the ordinance was reviewed.

An amendment was added to the ordinance, at the suggestion of City Executive Officer Patrick Fennell, requiring the CDMA to go before the council as city departments do during the regular budgetary period.

The ordinance will become effective upon its second reading.

MVA To Get New Building

By GREG BASSETT
Of The Times Staff 10/8

SALISBURY — Salisbury will
getting a new state Motor Vehic
Administration regional offic
possibly as soon as July, MV
Director Marshall Rickert a
nounced this week.

The new 16,000 square-foot fac
ity will be located east of Salisbu
at the intersection of U.S. Route
and Tilghman Road, across fr
Shoppers' World.

Rickert said a contract for
project is expected to be approv
by the state Board of Public Wo
in November. Once approved, c
struction on the $2 million faci
will begin immediately.

"Our Salisbury branch off
has been sorely in need of repai
said Rickert, "and we're proud
offer this new office to the pec
who have remained patient with
in the past."

Rickert said the old MVA of
in West Salisbury is less than
the size of the new facility.

"The new office will prov
nearly every service offered by
state," said Rickert. He noted
office's location near the inter
tion of U.S. Route 50 and the
Route 13 bypass as a "defi
plus" and said access should
easier to people from all over
tri-county area.

Facing U.S. Route 50, the 8-a
facility will feature three dr
testing courses, which will en
MVA testing officers to eval
learning drivers without lea
the premises.

Rickert said the land wil
annexed into the city, which
provide sewer and water hooku
the building.

Salisbury Mayor W. Paul Ma
praised Rickert, a Salisbury
tive, and state transportation
cials for their choice of loca
He said building the regional o
east of the city "opens up a w
new area to development."

Curb Service

1/11/88

Len Burt, of Len Burt Custom Concrete, shovels the concrete used to make a curb and gutter along White Street in Salisbury on Tuesday. Burt and his employees are contracted by the city to do the work.

Times Photo by Joey Gardner

1/24/88

Council Approves Bond Reallocation

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved the reallocation of bond funds to help met the cost of the Route 50 East water main project.

According to the ordinance, the city will use $362,886 for the water main serving property annexed on Route 50 East, including the new Motor Vehicle Administration building and the proposed Shoppes at Salisbury shopping center. What the city will not use the money for is the elevated storage tank proposed for the south side of the city.

Plotts said the need for the additional funds for the water main is due to an underestimation of the project's cost. He said the water storage tank was proposed 10 years ago and a study is currently being performed to update where the tank is now needed.

1/20/88

Council OKs Funds For Bridge

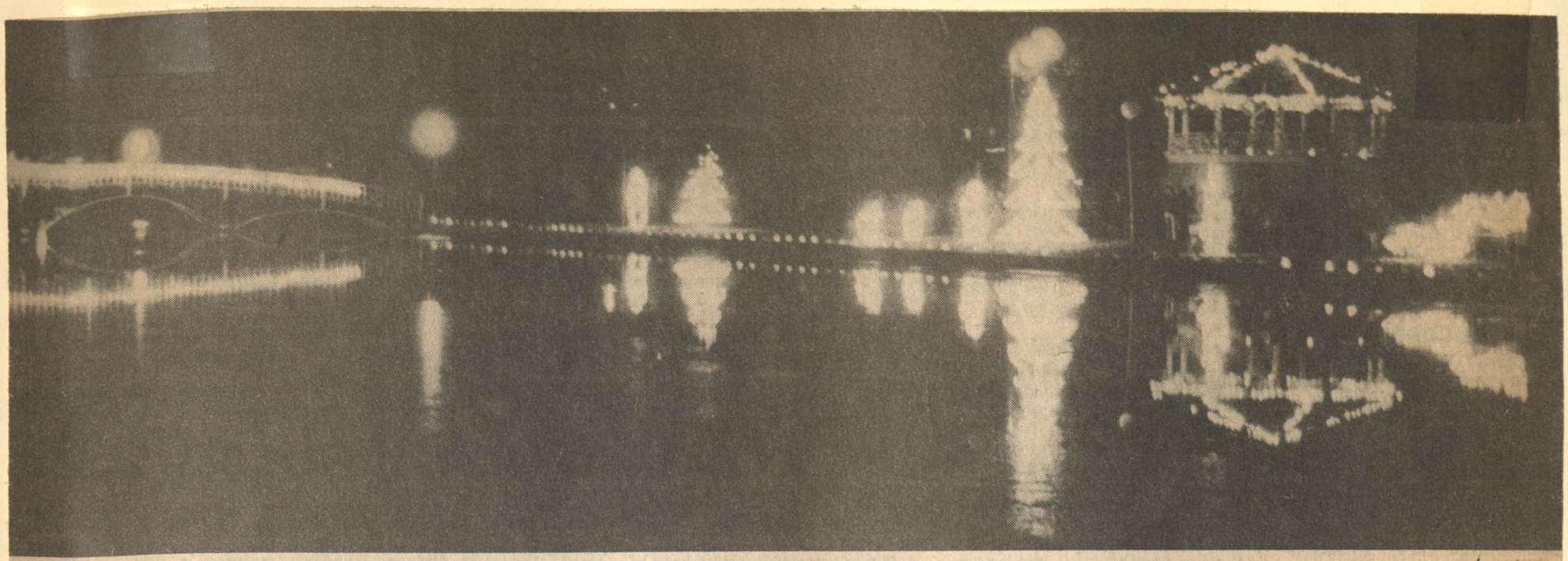
SALISBURY — The Wicomico County Council Tuesday approved releasing $616,000 in federal funds to the city for the renovation of the Isabella Street bridge.

Following a favorable inspection report on the county's 35 bridges, the county voted to release the funds. While the report was favorable, however, County Roads Drirector C. Kirk Banks and SHA Bureau of Bridge Inspection and Remedial Engineering Chief Geoffrey Kolberg said 28 bridges will be posted according to federal and state regulations to inform drivers of their maximum vehicle weight capacity.

Banks said the remaining bridges were built recently and meet the more modern standards. He said three bridges on school bus routes are able to handle the weight of the buses but will be upgraded to receive the proper federally-required posting.

Banks said the first county bridge to undergo renovation will be the Hinman Bridge over Beaverdam Creek, west of the Route 13 bypass. He said the cost of this project will come from the roads department operating budget.

The funds going to the city, Banks said, are part of an $887,000 federal allocation. He said the county's next allocation will be in 1992.



Lighting Festival

11/19/87

The Winter Wonderland lighting festival in Salisbury's City Park became a reality Wednesday night with the illumination of the bridge, bandstand, trees and assorted wrought iron animals. The festival will continue through January. (Times Photo by Milt Savage)

A Celebration Of Lights

The beginning of what could become an annual holiday event is scheduled to get underway Wednesday night at City Park in Salisbury. The public is invited to watch as city and county officials switch on the lights to the Winter Wonderland celebration.

Dazzling lights around the bandshell and sculptured deer, a Christmas tree, ducks, geese and a snowman, and luminaries along the water will usher in the county's first annual display of holiday lights.

The idea comes from county director of tourism Lewis Carman and the tourism committee, a group of local business people who promote tourism in the area.

Carman has been pushing his idea around town for the last several weeks urging businesses to come up with their own holiday lighting displays.

Already companies like Pepsi Cola Bottling Company are putting up extensive lighting displays for the holiday celebration. Pepsi Cola has been a leader in the past and its holiday decorations have been widely acclaimed.

Carman and his tourism committee are also sponsoring the first county-wide lighting contest asking homeowners throughout Wicomico County to light up their yards and exteriors in a festive mood and vie for awards. One of the top prizes will be a three-day trip to Myrtle Beach, S.C., and another is an airlines ticket to anywhere in Henson Airline's system.

Homeowners in the different communities can all compete in the Winter Wonderland celebration. If you're interested in getting into the contest, let Carman know by sending your name to the Convention and Visitors Bureau at the Wicomico Civic Center in Salisbury. He says judging will take place after Thanksgiving and that winners' names will be announced a few days before Christmas.

The lighting celebration is a splendid way to usher in the holiday season. Carman says the lighting displays in City Park will stay up through January. He hopes the event can become a yearly one. If area business people and homeowners get into the act, it can catch on as a real holiday attraction.

As a holiday drawing card, it could bring visitors to Salisbury from all over the three-state area.

But if the Winter Wonderland celebration is to become a success, it depends on everybody getting involved. This celebraton of lights will be an extension of what merchants on the Downtown Plaza have been doing so well for the last several years.

Why not get involved? Let's see who can come up with the most unusual display of lighting around town and around Wicomico County. It sounds like fun.

Take Precautions To Prevent Frozen Pipes

11/6/87

SALISBURY — Cold weather is here. During past winters, cold temperatures and winds caused hundreds of frozen pipes in citizens' homes and business establishments. All of these were probably avoidable if the owners or occupants had taken reasonable precautions.

As a public service, the Public Works Department of the city of Salisbury suggests several precautions that will prevent frozen pipes during the winter:

1. Close in open crawl spaces and under porch areas where pipes are exposed. This will protect the pipes from cold winds.
2. Insulate pipes in areas likely to go below the freezing temperature.
3. Allow a tap to trickle during very cold weather, especially at night when there is no water flow in the building for many hours. Moving water is not likely to freeze and the cost to run a trickle is minor.
4. If building is vacant, call the Water Department for prompt turn-off and then drain the system.

If the pipes burst, shut off the main valve right away in order to prevent costly wastage of water. If the main valve cannot be located, call the Water Department at (301) 548-3115 or the Public Works Department at (301) 548-3177 during business hours in order to have the water cut off at the meter. During nights and weekends, call the Police Department, which will contact emergency workers promptly.

Many residents and businesses that have pipes which have burst may receive excessive water and sewer bills. Upon application to the Public Works Department at (301) 548-3170 an adjustment of the sewer bill only will be initiated upon presentation of sufficient evidence that the high bill resulted from burst pipes caused by freezing.

ting The Season

Trees and bushes decorated with strings of bright lights illuminate Salisbury's downtown plaza for the Christmas holiday season. (Times Photo by Milt Savage)

11296

stores, Petrie has described the

Accessways To Proposed New

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — While the developer of the proposed Route 13 North Centre at Salisbury mall is optimistic the project will receive the necessary highway accessways from the state, a state official said "a lot of problems" need to be resolved.

Walter Petrie of Petrie, Dierman and Partners Inc., said his 870,000-square foot enclosed mall project is still on schedule despite negotiations with the state for accessways into the mall from Route 13. He said his staff continues to meet with state officials and he expects the issue to be resolved in time for his groundbreaking target of spring 1988.

Bob Schneider, a project manager with the Department of Transportation's Project Development Division, said the state cannot commit to Petrie's target date. He said the state's first priority is the "safety and integrity" of the existing and proposed Route 13 Bypass highway system and the second is incorporating accessways into the mall.

Petrie's engineers are proposing a northbound right access lane coming into the mall and a southbound left access lane. Petrie said the negotiations are normal procedure for such a project and expects an agreement to be reached in about 30 days.

ACCORDING TO Schneider, however, the proposed extension of the bypass must be addressed before it can be determined how accessways to the mall can be accomplished. He said the mall accessways must be designed around the plans to extend the bypass — increasing on and off access both north and south and east and west.

A public hearing on the bypass extension is scheduled for 7 p.m. Jan. 7 at Parkside High School. Schneider said he does not know whether the mall accessways will be discussed at that time.

Schneider said another obstacle to the mall accessways is the new Arby's which is being constructed on the southbound lane across from the mall site and just north of the Howard Johnson's. He said this project also must be addressed as it will increase traffic congestion in the area.

(See MALL, page A3)

HOWA
JOHN
ROUTE

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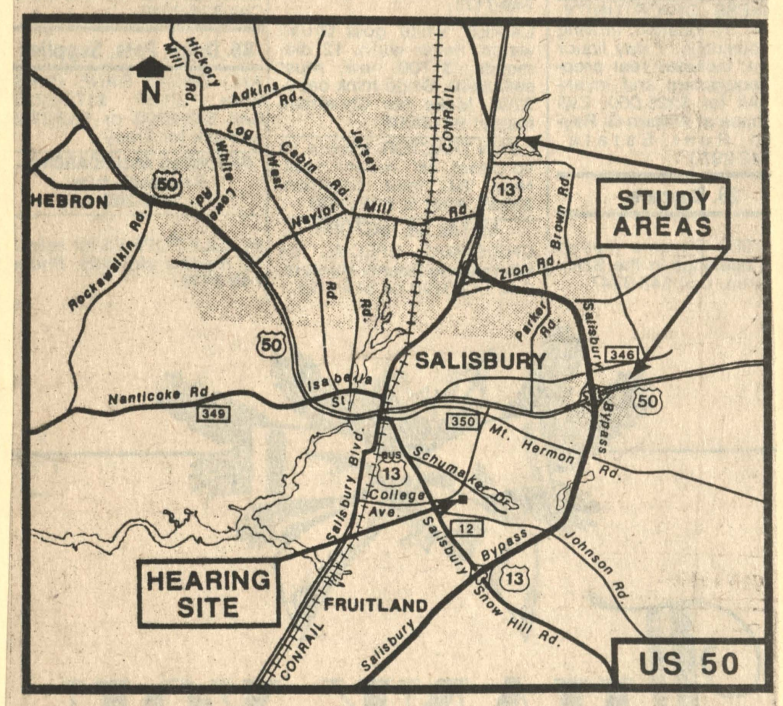
PUBLIC NOTICE

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

WILL CONDUCT A LOCATION/DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

January 7, 1988- 7:00 p.m.

Parkside High School
Beaglin Park Drive
Salisbury, Maryland
U.S. ROUTE 50 RELOCATED
SALISBURY BYPASS



This project proposes the relocation of a portion of U.S. Route 50 from U.S. Route 50 west of Salisbury to U.S. Route 13 north of Salisbury to complete the Salisbury Bypass. Also, as a related study, we are proposing improvements to the existing interchange of U.S. 50/U.S. 13 to provide safety for anticipated increases in traffic.

The purpose of the hearing is to afford all interested parties the opportunity to present their views regarding the proposed location and design of the project, including the social, economic, and environmental effects for the build alternates and the no-build alternate.

A formal presentation of approximately 30 minutes will include description of the project alternates, an environmental summary, information on right-of-way aquisition, relocation assistance policies and procedures, and Title VI of the Equal Opportunity program. The presentation will be followed by receipt of comments from the public.

The State Highway Administration in cooperation with the Maryland Historic Trust has identified one Historic Site in the study area that is considered eligible for the "National Register of Historic Places". This site is identified in the environmental document prepared for this project.

In accordance with the Section 106 procedures for the National Historic Preservation Act, this public hearing provides the opportunity for public input. It has been determined by the Maryland Historical Trust that there will be no adverse effect on this site.

Individuals and representatives of organizations that desire to be heard, or want to placed on the project mailing list, may submit a request to Mr. Neil J. Pederson, Director, Office of Planning and Preliminary Engineering, Post Office Box 717, Baltimore, Maryland 21203-0717, no later than Tuesday, January 5, 1988.

If you received a copy of this notice in the mail, you are already on the mailing list. Others present at the hearing who desire to speak may do so following those on the previously established list. If a large number of speakers enroll, a limitation on the amount of time allotted each speaker may be necessary. Brochures and forms for written comments will be available at this hearing.

Beginning on December 8, 1987, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement describing the study will be available for inspection and copying, Monday through Friday, at the following locations:

Government Office Building
South Division Street
Salisbury, Maryland 21801
Hours: 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Wicomico County Free Library
122 South Division Street
Salisbury, Maryland 21801
Hours- 10:00 a.m.- 9:00 p.m.
(Thur.- Sat.) 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.
(Sun.) 1.00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

State Highway Administration
District Office
660 West Road
Salisbury, Maryland 21801
Hours: 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Library- Room 415
707 North Calvert Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Hours: 8:15 a.m.- 3:15 p.m.

Written statements and other exhibits in lieu of or in addition to oral presentations at the hearing may be submitted to Mr. Pedersen at the above address until January 21, 1988 in order to be included in the "Public Hearing Transcript"

HEARING IMPAIRED

If anyone with hearing impairment desires to attend this HEARING, please notify Mr. Neil J. Pedersen at the above address in writing or by teletype to 1-800-492-5062 (Statewide Toll Free), to be received no later than five days preceding this HEARING, defining whether an oral or sign language interpreter is needed. To the extent this is feasible and possible, an interpreter will be procured.

SNOW EMERGENCY

If the Wicomico County "Snow Emergency Plan" is in effect on the day of the hearing, or if the County Public Schools have been closed and evening activities cancelled, this hearing will also be cancelled and rescheduled for January 13, 1988.

Hal Kassoff
Administrator
AA12/5,23 E-7769

Colorful Job

Eric Hastings, dockmaster at the Port of Salisbury Marina, is almost lost in a sea of color as he prepares to raise Old Glory and the state flag on the yardarm at the marina. (Times Photo by Brice Stump)

2/22/88

Featured Fruit

Jennifer Kajencki, left, director of the Salisbury Downtown Revitalization Committee and Terry Freed, owner of the Garden of Eden peach farm near Eden, fill a basket with fresh peaches. Bushels of peaches will be given away and sold during the sixth annual Peach Festival Saturday on Salisbury's Downtown Plaza. (Times Photo by Brice Stump)

7/22/88

WICOMICO COUNTY

Officials Strive To Meet Salisbury's Growing Needs

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Major projects are on Salisbury's horizon and it will be the local government's responsibility to keep the city's continuing growth commensurate with the ability of the city to provide services.

Mayor W. Paul Martin said the economy for Salisbury is good and should continue to be so despite any bearing a new presidential administration in 1989 might have on the nation. He, like other local officals, said local governments have had to become more and more self-sustaining as a result of decreasing federal and state aid and such a trend is expected to continue despite the changing of the White House guard.

No matter who is elected as president, Martin said, he doesn't believe lost federal funds will be reinstated. The election citizens should be watching, he said, is the city election this spring in which three council seats are open.

Martin said the mayor and council are the people who are spending the taxpayers' money and who have to answer for that action. He said the elected officials should be foremost open-minded, dedicated and reasonable people who will listen to both sides of an issue as well as being attuned to "the people issue."

Martin said the profession of the officials is not crucial — assuredly, the officials will be "bombarded by the brains" on both sides of an issue.

WHAT HE and council members will be faced with in the future, according to Martin, will be a continued trend of growth in the city. Two new shopping centers are scheduled for construction in the city, plans to expand the Northwood Industrial park are being discussed between the city and Wicomico County and the downtown and marina project is progressing with the advent of Developer Dennis Nooner's retirement complex in the old Young Building off Market and West Main streets, to name just a few of the projects on the city's drawing boards.

Along with an increase for the city's assessable base, Martin said, the projects also will mean an increase in the need for services to accommodate the growing population which results from annexations to the city and the lure of new jobs in the area.

For instance, Martin said, the Route 13 North corridor annexation is complete and the city and county's joint water and sewer project is under way and should be finished by this summer. He said this annexation and water and sewer project enabled the city to attract the Centre At Salisbury, an enclosed mall proposed north of here off the Route 13 bypass.

What this project means for the city, the mayor said, is an additional 1,800 jobs, he said, and that means additional services such as police protection. While the city wants to accommodate such growth, he said, it should be controlled to complement the ability of the city to meet the additional service needs. For instance, he said, while a General Motors plant in the area would seem advantageous for the city, he does not think an influx of 8,000 employees could be properly addressed by current city services.

INSTEAD, MARTIN said, the city looks for diversified industry which will not overload the system of services. He said Grumman Aero-Space Corp. is an international industry which benefits the city but which did not bring thousands of people to the area.

Whatever the economy of the nation, Martin said, the city looks to attract diversified industry in case of an economic downfall. He said the city's industries are varied which means if one plant has to close, it will not affect the entire

(See CITY, page 3)

Salisbury's Downtown Plaza, left, and Mayor W. Paul Martin, below.

Times Photos by Susan Gerstel

provide a population of customers for the downtown shops and offices in exchange for the convenience of a self-sustaining neighborhood.

Kajencki

Kajencki said the new Commerical District Management Authority, which licenses businesses in the downtown area, will result in a tightly-knit organization which not only will provide funds through licensing fees for marketing the downtown area but will create a sense of unity for the area and its overall efforts.

Thus far, the city's revitalization efforts has received federal and state aid. Kajencki said she anticipates the state will continue to aid the city's revitalization efforts because Gov. William Donald Schaefer has been very supportive of such efforts throughout the state.

What aid will come from the federal government now that a new administration is forthcoming, Kajencki said she doesn't know. She did say a Democratic administration, rather than a Republican, has a history of supporting such efforts.

The new CDMA was established, Kajencki added, to relieve some of the pressure of such dependence on government assistance.

RuDAT President and immediate past president of the Downtown Salisbury Association, Nancy Carragher said merchants "do not have a crystal ball anymore than anyone else" regarding the west side near Pemberton Drive which will bring increased housing as well as improvements to the city waste water treatment plant. On the north end, he said, the city and county are negotiating for the northern expansion of the Northwood Industrial Park.

MARTIN SAID the city will see growth on the east side, including the new state Motor Vehicle Administration building as well as the new Shoppes at Salisbury shopping center which will have Zayre's and Hechingers as two of its anchor stores. On the south side, he said, the Salisbury Mall is proposing a new addition and new residential property is proposed for Route 12 near the Holly Center.

Martin said he would like to see the state proceed and finish the proposed Route 50 bypass as soon as possible. He said it will be needed more than ever to dilute the traffic through Salisbury experienced during the Ocean City resort months when the Cambridge highway widening and the Vienna bridge and highway project are completed.

"Growth always carries with it a price tag," Martin said. "It is a strong challenge to maintain services for people as they know them today."

"Our responsibility is to control and respect growth, so we don't expand too fast and we can't meet our needs," Martin said. "We have an orderly planned growth — what we want and where we want it."

CITY COUNCIL

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Schumaker Manor Annexation OK'd 3/15/88

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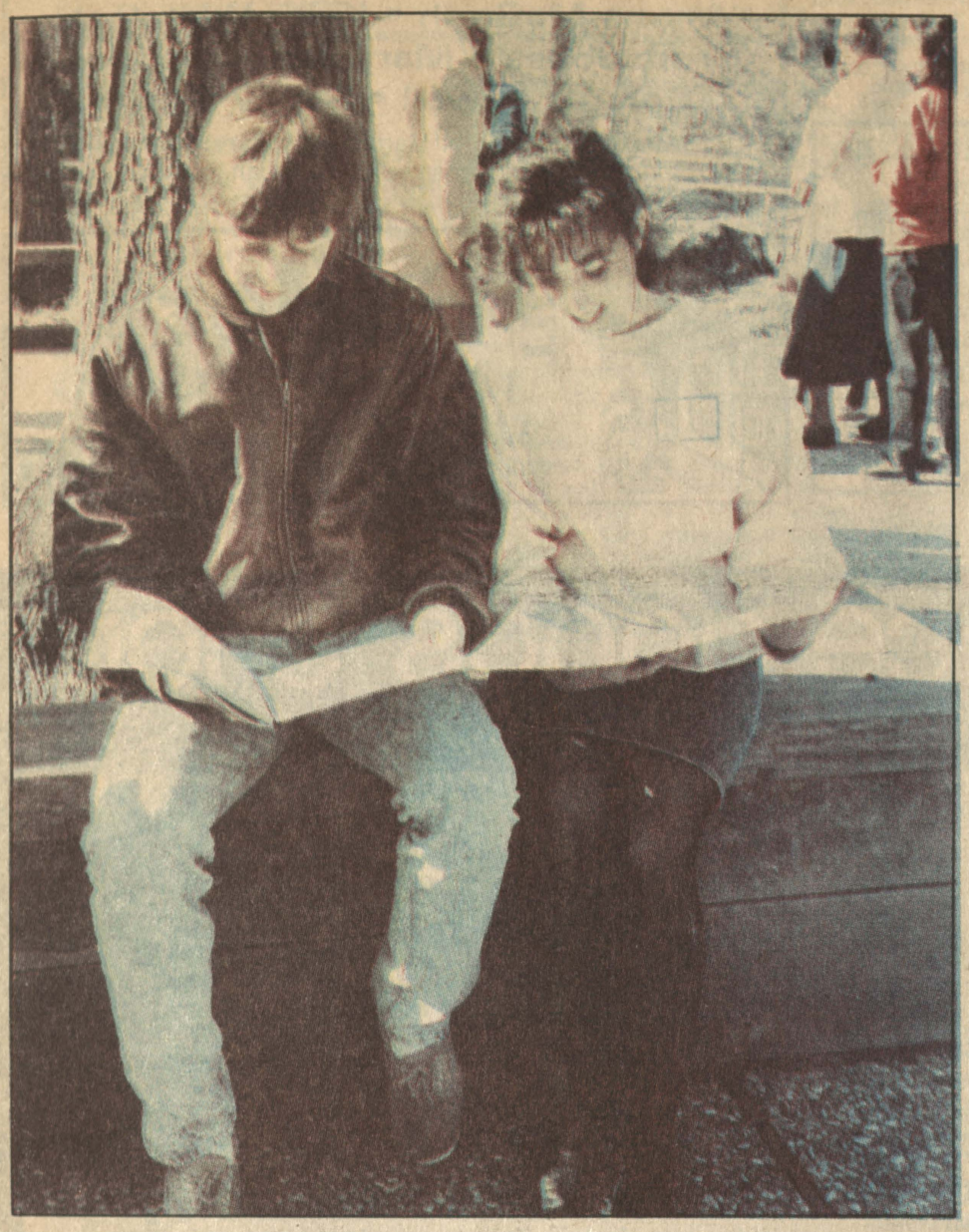
The work is expected to take four to five weeks to complete, barring unforeseen problems or delays. During this period, traffic will be restricted at times to use the one lane in each direction along portions of Mill Street between Route 50 and Riverside Drive. Some minor detouring of traffic is to be expected with the work, the spokesman said.

Access to local business in the construction area will be maintained at all times.

Volunteers Get The Zoo Review



Looking at their copies of the Education Committee's guide handbook are Mike Pusey and Luisa Paucchi, both Salisbury State College students who have volunteered at the Salisbury Zoological Park.

Times Photo by Barbara Audet

Guides-In-Training Learning The Ropes

By BARBARA AUDET
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The weather was uncharacteristically lamblike for 30 new Education Committee volunteers who showed up on a recent March afternoon to learn the how-tos of being a docent at the Salisbury Zoological Park.

Fortified under sunny blue skies and tousled by an early spring breeze, these future docents, or teacher/lecturers, sat in a cozy semicircle of chairs as zoo handbooks and newsletters were passed to them.

With her hair swept up and away from her face in deference to the wind, Janice Davis, a Bishopville resident and Zoo Education Volunteer chairman, told the volunteers they would soon be equipped to explain "the rules of the zoo."

"Spring is a wonderful time" to begin volunteering at the zoo, Davis said to the class.

WATCHING FROM their perches and cages and every corner of the 12-acre zoological park on the Wicomico River were the furry and feathered objects of the volunteers' study — the birds and animals that make this zoo their home. Some, like the airhorn-voiced peacocks, sounded their noisy message of welcome to the class.

In a matter of weeks, aided by perseverance and their love of animals, each of these volunteers can expect they may soon be leading Eastern Shore schoolchildren through the twists and turns of the tranquil park, anxious for their first glimpse at a pacing jaguar or a lumbering black bear.

From housewives to college students to senior citizens, these volunteers said they are hoping to accomplish something for themselves while helping make the zoo experience a more fulfilling one for all who come through the gates.

"I just like animals and I like the outdoors," said Donna Daniels of Berlin as she toured the zoo with volunteer Ed Kraus and other class members. "I had always wondered how to help and, until I read the ad in the paper, I wasn't sure how to go about it."

KRAUS, WHO recommended not always trying to talk in competition with the exhibit, said, "Listen to the animals. Some of them like the spectacled bear have a beautiful voice. I give the children a chance to observe and learn and interact with the animals."

Another class member, Jim Rapp, is hoping to enroll his pet iguana in the Zoo-To-You program and is working with Davis to accomplish that. That program suffeved a loss recently with the death of a favorite parrot, Davis said, adding that she is reconsidering the directions Zoo-To-You will take in the future.

Two SSC students, Mike Pusey and Luisa Paucchi, said they had time on their hands and a desire to fill it in an unusual fashion.

"I love animals and he loves being outside," said Paucchi cheerfully. "First getting started will be the hardest, but I think the best thing will be giving the little kids the tour of the zoo."

As the demand by area schools and tour bus companies has grown, so too has the need for more zoo volunteers able to offer time, Davis said.

OVERSEEING THE training

(See ZOO, page E2)

Taking Form 3/14/88

Workers from the Pocahontas Company of Salisbury direct the flow of cement into the alligator pond and building under construction in the Salisbury Zoo. In addition to donating the materials, Pocahontas has also painted a truck as Sissy the Snake to promote the zoo. Ron Alessi, owner of the company, a member of the Friends of the Zoo, intends to paint other company trucks with zoo animal themes. (Times Photo)

Wed In Park 9/88

Mr. and Mrs. James Edward Owens Jr., who were married in Salisbury's City Park and honeymooned in Florida, are now making their home in Salisbury. The bride is the former Joanna Glime, daughter of William and Joan Glime of Stonehedge Drive in Salisbury, and the bridegroom is the son of James E. Owens Sr. of Claymont, Del. The Rev. Milbourne Adkins performed the nuptials on July 16 and a reception followed in the Pittsville Fire Department hall. The bride, a 1984 graduate of Mardela High School, is employed with the certified public accounting firm of Faw, Casson and Co. in Salisbury. Her husband, who was graduated in 1985 from Parkside High School in Salisbury, is attending Delaware Technical College in Georgetown and is employed at Steel-Tech Fabricators in Delmar.

RVA UPDATE '88

Monday, February 29, 1988

r Brings Challenge To Meet Needs

CITY

(Continued from page 2)

labor force of the city.

"We don't grow as fast," Martin said, "but we don't fall as fast."

Growth in Salisbury can be illustrated by the increase of the real estate assessable base. City Treasurer Roger Baskerville estimated the assessable base at almost $212.8 million for the fiscal 1987-1988 tax year and is anticipating the 1988-1989 base to reach $230.8 million.

Martin said the city's growth is not limited to one area. However, he said, it will be concentrated around water and sewer facilities whether in Salisbury or other municipalities.

The city's efforts to revitalize the downtown area received a major push at the end of last year when Nooner purchased the Young building from the city. Martin said the project — a retirement complex on the city Plaza, with retail, office and parking accommodations — adds the residential aspect of the city's plan in addition to increasing the area's commercial and office space.

Martin said the project will change the flavor of the downtown from strictly retail and commercial.

ACCORDING TO revitalization director Jenifer Kajencki, the Nooner project brings people within walking distance of the retail and professional businesses to create an atmosphere of "community living." She said residences in the downtown area provide a population of customers for the downtown shops and offices in exchange for the convenience of a self-sustaining neighborhood.

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Thus far, the city's revitalization efforts has received federal and state aid. Kajencki said she anticipates the state will continue to aid the city's revitalization efforts because Gov. William Donald Schaefer has been very supportive of such efforts throughout the state.

What aid will come from the federal government now that a new administration is forthcoming, Kajencki said she doesn't know. She did say a Democratic administration, rather than a Republican, has a history of supporting such efforts.

The new CDMA was established, Kajencki added, to relieve some of the pressure of such dependence on government assistance.

RuDAT President and immediate past president of the Downtown Salisbury Association, Nancy Carragher said merchants "do not have a crystal ball anymore than anyone else" regarding the future economy. She did say merchants have indicated 1988 has had a good beginning and "good business makes business" although she said merchants would be affected if the economy took a "horrible tail spin."

CARRAGHER SAID the new state office building proposed for the downtown area as well as additional parking shows the downtown is "growing and moving forward."

Carragher said she is concerned about the city fathers and their push for the new shopping centers becasue it might mean furthering slicing of the retail pie. She did say, however, that the city's growth should offset such a condition.

Kajencki said she sees the downtown looking for a more regional approach aimed at luring people from Delaware and further down in Virginia. She said the advent of new shopping centers should not have an adverse effect on the downtown merchants when some mercahnts having stores both downtown and in a shopping center have indicated they do a bit better downtown because of the rent, location and overhead.

What will not happen in the near future in the downtown, Kajencki said, is the proposed cultural arts center, marina development because of pending litigation between the city and developer Joseph Schwartz and a transportation system she believes is needed to connect the city. These projects will take some time, she said, particularly when CDMAs have been shown to take about three years to become truly effective.

What will be happening in the remainder of the city, according to Martin, is property annexation on the west side near Pemberton Drive which will bring increased housing as well as improvements to the city waste water treatment plant. On the north end, he said, the city and county are negotiating for the northern expansion of the Northwood Industrial Park.

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Access to local business in the construction area will be maintained at all times.

Wicomico 5/24/88

Development Gets Final Approval

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved the final reading of an ordinance establishing Phase II of the Harbor Pointe development as a Planned Residential District.

According to city and county planning director William Livingston, Phase II of the development is on 67 acres of the former Bell Farm on Pemberton Drive. He said the cluster development received a favorable recommendation from the planning and zoning commission.

Phase II of the 279-acre development, according to the planning staff report, consists of 173 cluster lots on 35.8 acres with 16.49 acres of open space, 5.05 acres of recreational facilities and 8.33 acres of streets.

Council Approves Annexation Bid

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved a resolution annexing the Rose-North Park Drive property at the northwest corner of the intersection of North Park Drive Extended and Schumaker Lane.

According to the city planning staff report, the property is on .61 acres and will be zoned residential R-8A. The permitted uses under this zoning allow one more single family unit per acre and four less multi-family units per acre than the R-15 zoning of the county.

Aydelotte Farm Annexation OK'd

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved a resolution annexing the 200-acre Aydelotte Farm at the easterly end of Gordy road.

Acording to the city planning staff report, the zoning recommendation is residential R-10 and R-8A. The R-10 zoning would occur at the easterly portion of the site, while the remaining land would be zoned R-8A.

The new zoning, according to the report, will permit the same amount of residential units per acre as the current county R-15 zoning.

Street Repairs To Begin 5/26/88

SALISBURY — The City of Salisbury's Department of Public Works began reconstruction of West Main Street from Mill Street to the Wicomico River on Monday to provide an additional eastbound left-turn bay.

This will include removal and replacement of existing curb, gutter and sidewalk, pavement widening, installation of new land markings and installation of new signal-trip devices, a spokesman for the city said.

The work is expected to take two weeks to complete, barring any unforseen problems or delays, the official said. During this period, traffic may at times be restricted from the use of West Main Street between Mill Street and Lake Street. Some detouring of traffic is to be expected with the work.

Break-In At City Building Probed 5/5/88

SALISBURY — The City Service Center on Lake Street and School Street was broken into Wednesday night or early today and tools and a truck were stolen, according to City Police.

Police said an inventory is being conducted to determine how much property was taken. They said the break-in happened between midnight and 1:30 a.m., apparently through an unsecured window.

The vehicle taken was a 1987 Chevrolet pickup, white, with the city seal on the doors and a yellow light on the roof, according to police. The license tag number is LG-29614, police said.

Police ask anyone with information to call them at 548-3165.

'88 Festival Was One Of The Best 5/15/88

The city of Salisbury and the surrounding areas have some very classy residents. On a weekend when there was a perfect reason to stay at home, faithful thousands came out to the Salisbury Festival. I thank you for your participation and making the 1988 festival one of the best.

But long before crowds were even thought about, there were faithful volunteers working long hours, making certain everything was in order. The quality of volunteers in Salisbury is unparalled anywhere. The Salisbury Festival is a massive undertaking that calls upon volunteers to put in countless hours after the normal workday.

Volunteers are a special breed, whose only concern, for the most part, is making certain the job is done well and people enjoy what has been planned for them. Salisbury is blessed to have its many proud sponsors who contribute so much of their resources, financial and otherwise.

It was an honor for me to serve as chairman of the Salisbury Festival because I had the opportunity to work with and meet many different individuals that I would not see ordinarily. I am referring to people of all ages, sexes and races. The one common thread I found in each person was a genuine concern for the welfare of the city of Salisbury.

I give a great deal of thanks to the city of Salisbury, especially, the public works department, for making certain everyone had enough electrical power, barricading streets, and yes, for the great cleanup job when everyone has gone home. Thank you everyone who helped with moving and setting up/tearing down staging and other areas of the festival.

A very special thanks goes to all of the news media, electronic and print, who made the world aware of the Salisbury Festival. Thank you for all of the fine articles and feature stories you did for us.

To all the committeemen, some of whom were new — thank you for jobs well done.

Thank you, one and all. You made the Salisbury Festival a very classy act.

Leo McNeil
Chairman
Salisbury Festival '88

Paleo Park Plan Funds Sought 5/29/88

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday agreed to request state Program Open Space funds to develop a master plan for the proposed Paleo Park.

Executive Officer Patrick J. Fennell said the request orginally was for the entire project but city officials agree that a $9,000 master plan for the proposed 70-acre Naylor Mill Road park should be developed before the project is started.

According to Fennell, the other projects being submitted for funding by the POS program, are completion of the Riverwalk II, Riverwalk and landscaping, development of the Marina Riverwalk, and the acquisition of the Plaza Garden.

Salisbury Utility Work Scheduled 6/12/88

SALISBURY — The City of Salisbury Department of Public Works will begin construction repairs to a public sewer crossing under West Road and located just north of the existing railroad crossing near Campbell Soup on Monday.

The work will involve roadway pavement removal, excavation, piping repair, backfilling, and pavement restoration, city officials said.

The work is expected to take two weeks to complete, barring any unforseen problems or delays. During this period, through traffic may at times be prohibited on West Road between Isabella and Booth streets. However, access to local businesses and residences within the construction area will be maintained at all times. Detouring of traffic is to be expected with the work, city officials said.

Proposal Restoring Branch OK'd 6/28/88

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday passed a resolution approving a Maryland Community Development Block Grant proposal to restore Coty Cox Branch.

According to city Executive Officer Patrick J. Fennell, the restoration involves the cleaning of the branch to eliminate mosquito and odor problems. He said the total cost of the project is $170,166, $26,500 of the funds appropriated in the city's 1989 fiscal budget and $25,000 appropriated in the city's Department of Public Works' budget.

Fennell said the project will include replacing the Isabella Street culvert, stream improvements from Route 50 to Isabella Street and stream improvements from Route 50 to the city line. He said the project has a 50-50 chance of being approved by the state as its cost is modest and it meets the CDBG criteria.

Work On Newton Street Planned 6/29/88

SALISBURY — On Tuesday, July 5, the Salisbury Department of Public Works will begin a utility and street improvement project on Newton Street from Camden Avenue to Waverly Drive, closing Newton Street to through traffic.

The project includes roadway pavement removal, excavation, piping renewals, backfilling, curb and sidewalk renewals and pavement restoration.

The project is expected to be completed in three months. While Newton Street is closed, access to residences within the construction area will be available at all times.

Schumaker To To Be Annexed 7/13/88

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday gave final approval to a resolution annexing Schumaker Properties, east of the Schumaker Woods subdivision between North Schumaker Drive and Schumaker Pond.

The annexed area is 25.7 acres of farmland and woodland, southeast of the city. The Salisbury Wicomico Planning and Zoning Commission recommended R-8 residential zoning for the property, which only would permit one more single family unit per acre than permitted by the current R-20 residential county zoning.

State OKs Funding For Salisbury Park 3/11/88

ANNAPOLIS (AP) — Maryland officials this week approved the use of $191,000 in state funds to create a park and recreation area in one of the oldest sections of Salisbury.

The initial grant, authorized by the state Board of Public Works, will be used to purchase three acres of land and a number of run-down properties that sit on the site where Newton Park will be located.

The John Wesley United Methodist Church, built in 1837, is located adjacent to the proposed park. It is the oldest church and school organized by freed slaves in Maryland.

Salisbury officials said housing that will be torn down to make way for the park is in deplorable condition. The city will spend $10,000 to help relocate the families, who will also receive federal housing aid.

Mall Dispute May Be Settled 6/30/88

SALISBURY — The legal battle between two Route 13 North businesses and the developers of the proposed Centre At Salisbury shopping mall was postponed at the request of attorneys who believe an out-of-court settlement may be near.

A hearing scheduled for Wednesday on the suit filed by owners of the Arbys and the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge against the mall developers and the Salisbury Wicomico Planning and Zoning Commission was postponed until the end of July. The suit maintains that a proposed "fly-over" access road to the mall will cut into the fast food and motor lodge properties, adversely affecting those businesses.

Md. Sewage Treatment Plants Ranked In Report

ANNAPOLIS — The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's third annual report on wastewater treatment in Maryland ranks Maryland's largest sewage treatment plants in terms of compliance with permit pollutant limits. The ranking is based on the two pollutants by which treatment efficiency is most often determined. These are biochemical oxygen demand (organic material) and total suspended solids.

The total discharge of these pollutants by the major plants decreased by 7 percent and 10 percent respectively. This was due in part to dry conditions in the watershed, but also to significant upgrades at the Havre De Grace, Mattawoman, and Freedom District plants. Five plants — the city of Bowie, Md., Broadneck and Cox Creek of Anne Arundel County, and Horsepen Branch and Seneca Creek operated by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission — all operated without any permit violations.

While the overall compliance of Maryland's major sewage treatment plants improved in 1987, there are several plants for which compliance problems grew worse. These were Baltimore's Back River and Patapsco plants, Hurlock, Elkton and Salisbury.

The Salisbury plant managed to achieve compliance for only two out of 12 months in 1987. The problems at Salisbury are due in part to new construction, but also to industrial waste contributions to the plant's sewer system. Salisbury is not alone in this problem. For all of the plants which compliance levels fell, CBF has identified problems with industrial pre-treatment.

Industrial wastewater that is not treated before discharge into the sewers can have a significant impact on the performance of the plant, a spokesman said. CBF has found that the municipalities are often slow to set up pre-treatment programs and reluctant to take the role of permit enforcer once the program is set up. Because the overall level of treatment declines when industrial wastes are introduced, improved pre-treatment will also enhance the removal of conventional pollutants and nutrients, the spokesman said.

The CBF wastewater treatment report also evaluates the removal of nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) by sewage treatment plants. There are two types of removal processes, chemical and biological. Biological removal of nutrients has distinct cost advantages when compared to chemical removal techniques. Two plants out of 36 major sewage treatment plants in Maryland currently use biological nutrient removal.

Under the Chesapeake Bay Agreement signed by the governors in December 1987, nutrient input to the bay must be reduced by 40 percent by the year 2000. If this goal is to be reached, Maryland and the other bay states must institute a nutrient removal policy for their treatment plants.

CBF recommends all sewage treatment plants which discharge more than one-half million gallons per day be upgraded to reach a level of treatment attainable by biological nutrient removal. CBF also recommends that plants less than one-half million gallons per day consider land treatment or other options to remove nutrients, the spokesman said.

Although 1987 has shown some improvement in the level of tratment and compliance by Maryland's wastewater treatment plants, much remains to be done, the spokesman said. In order to effectively reduce the damage to the bay caused by sewage effluent, the state and municipalities must take an aggressive stance on issues such as biological nutrient removal, pre-treatment of wastewater by industry, and effective maintenance and operation.

June 29 Ruling In Mall Dispute Set

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — A decision on both a lawsuit and an administrative appeal of the approval of the proposed Route 13 North Centre at Salisbury shopping mall will be rendered June 29 in Wicomico County Circuit Court.

Circuit Court Judge D. William Simpson decided Thursday that an administrative appeal of the Salisbury-Wicomico Planning and Zoning Commission's approval of the mall should be heard by the court rather than the Salisbury Board of Zoning Appeals. He said he would render his decision on the appeal the same time he hears the merits of a lawsuit also filed by the owners of the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge and Arby's in their battle against a proposed "flyover" access road to the mall.

The plaintiffs have maintained that the proposed flyover will adversely affect their businesses by reducing their access to the highway and cutting into their properties. The defendants in the suit and the administrative appeal are the commission and the mall developer, Petrie, Dierman and Partners Inc.

SIMPSON SAID the administrative appeal should be heard by the court rather than the Board of Zoning Appeals because the city code only allows the board to hear appeals involving the individual or agency which enforces the zoning code. He said the commission is not the enforcer of the zoning code.

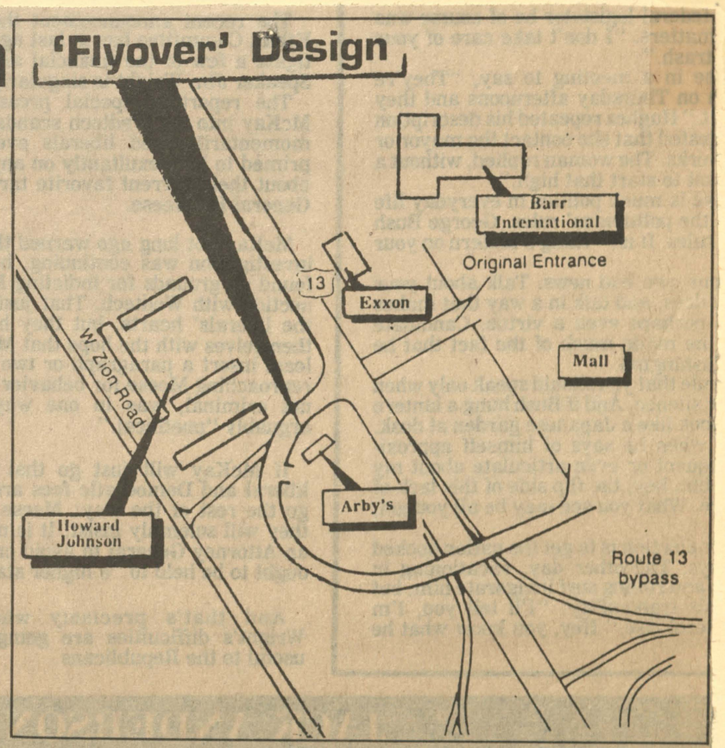
Simpson also said he would render his decisions regarding both the suit and the appeal at the same time in case appeals of both cases are filed in a higher court.

Both the suit and the administrative appeal allege that the commission approved the mall without receiving the appropriate documents and the flyover is unconstitutionally being paid for with public funds when it is for a private purpose.

The State Highway Administration approved the flyover as the safest access route for the mall. According to SHA officials, concerns about merging Route 13 bypass and Route 13 business traffic are alleviated with the flyover, as are concerns about southbound traffic making left turns into the mall.

FUNDING FOR the $8.4 million flyover is a joint venture between the state, the mall developer, the City of Salisbury and the county. The developer is expected to pay $2.4 million, and the county and city will each pay $500,000, with the state paying the remainder.

The plaintiffs also filed suits against the city and county, maintaining the governments did not follow budgetary procedure when committing to the funding of the flyover.



'FLYOVER.' The 'flyover' proposed by the State Highway Administration to provide Route 13 access to the proposed Centre at Salisbury shopping mall will allow southbound and northbound traffic to loop toward the west and back around again into the mall.

CITY OF SALISBURY
WATER & SEWER RATES
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1988

Water

Monthly Users

1st 100,000 gallons	$1.21 per 1,000 gallons
2nd 100,000 gallons	.71 per 1,000 gallons
All over 200,000	.48 per 1,000 gallons

Quarterly Users

1st 300,000 gallons	$1.21 per 1,000 gallons
2nd 300,000 gallons	.71 per 1,000 gallons
All over 600,000 gallons	.48 per 1,000 gallons

Sewer rate is 100% of Water Rate.
Minimum bill $16.15 per quarter up to 8,000 gallons.
Above rates apply to in-city customers only.
Urban Service is 1½ times and in-county is 2X the rates above.

New Fees

$10.00- Administrative Processing fee added to any account unpaid for 60 days for water & sewer charges.
$40.00- Water Turn On Fee between the hours of 5:00 P.M. & 8:00 A.M. and all hours of weekends and holidays.
$50.00- The ambulance user fee has increased from $30 to $50 per call.

7/2/88

River Work

John Tracey, a foreman for Coastal Designs in Newport News, Va., places stones along the Wicomico River wall on Carroll Street with his backhoe Thursday as part of federal grant program for the city of Salisbury. Marsh grass will be planted behind the stone preventing further erosion of the river banks. (Times Photo by Karen Sweeney)

Wicomico River Work Under Way

7/14/88

SALISBURY — The south and north side of the Wicomico River off Carroll Street is undergoing a shoreline face lift.

Steve Minkey, Salisbury Public Works Department project enigineer, said the city received a state Resource Conservation and Development Council grant to prevent shore erosion. The project entails the construction of a rock embankment supported by sand, two species of marsh grasses and regular top soil and grasses.

Minkey said the $115,000 grant will cover the cost of the project from the end of the wooden bulkhead to the Circle Avenue Bridge on the south side and 135 feet east of Market Street Inn on the northside.

Minkey said the city also hopes to plant cypress trees along the south side and, with the help of the local bass Fisherman association, have fishing piers erected. He said the trees also will enhance river fishing as they will provide fish-attracting shade.

Plaza Picnic

Janet McCorry of Salisbury, and her family, Kissy, 3, back to camera, John, 4, and Lisa, 12, break for lunch and take advantage of a shaded picnic table at the Downtown Plaza.

Salisbury Traffic Troubles Focus Of Joint Study

7/3/88

By NATALIE SCHILLING
Special To The Times

SALISBURY — Traffic always becomes a major concern on the Eastern Shore during the summer, when thousands of extra cars clog the highways each weekend en route to the beach. But Salisbury city traffic has been a year-round concern for city and state officials for more than a decade now.

Beginning early this month, the city Department of Public Works, together with the Maryland State Highway Administration, will conduct an extensive study of Salisbury area roads and traffic patterns in order to provide solutions to some of the traffic problems currently facing the city.

The study, brought about chiefly to update and upgrade a 1975 SHA study, will last for approximately three months and will involve hiring private engineering consultants to study certain intersections, corridors (long sections of roadway) and neighborhood roads. They will then file reports and provide recommendations for improvements to the city and state.

FIRST ON the Department of Public Works' list of areas to be evaluated are a number of intersections, which will be studied with an eye toward upgrading pavement markings, signs and signals. The intersections in most urgent need of evaluation and improvement are those involving the following roads: Mt. Hermon Road/East Main Street/Long Avenue/William Street; Snow Hill Road/East Main Street; East Main and Ward streets; Snow Hill and Schumaker roads; Mount Herman Road/Civic Avenue; East Church and East Main street.

According to Deputy Director of Public Works Newell "Chip" Messick, available funds for the 1988 fiscal year should be sufficient for assessment of the above areas. This year's cost to the city will be $25,000, and the SHA will contribute an additional $12,000. More money ove subsequent years may be required to complete th entire study, which encompasses nine more interse tions, 15 corridors, and four city neighborhoods.

CORRIDOR OR roadway assessment will consist studying existing traffic patterns, geometrics, a traffic problems and providing recommendations f improvements. The evaluation will begin with Nor Division Street, Camden Avenue, and Parsons Roa Fitzwater Street and will proceed through to Easte Shore Drive and Beaglin Park Drive.

Neighborhood study will involve assessing existi neighborhood traffic patterns and problems and provi ing recommendations for improvements. The fo areas to be evaluated are the northwest section of tow bounded by North Salisbury Boulevard, Route 50 a Johnson's Pond; the northeast section, bounded by

(See STUDY, page A2)

ing most assistance in areas closely involving state routes. Private contractors may also be called in for certain improvements.

Messick said the key to the successful completion of this study will be continued cooperation between city and state. Such cooperation has been elemental in such projects as the recent improvement of the Mill Street/Riverside

the implementation of several large-scale roads projects to provide long-term relief from the problems created by increasing traffic flow in and around the Salisbury area. Among these are the construction of two new bridges over the southern portion of the Wicomico River and the completion of the Salisbury Bypass to create a loop around the entire city.

ting resources into upgrading the facilities which make Salisbury look run down, not removing the areas which give her quality of life, like farmlands and open spaces.

The West Side of the county is one of the last areas to be targeted for commercial and residential development. Building is proceeding at a tremendous rate, consuming beautiful farms and forests that helped make this such a wonderful place to live.

The concept that growth is always beneficial is coming into question in many areas. None of us living here want our children to inherit the crime, the poor public schools, the high cost of living and the dreadful quality of the environment of a Baltimore or Washington.

Little towns all over the Western Shore have taken on these sacrifices as they opened up financial opportunities for a few and housing opportunities for thousands.

As they watch their populations mushroom, they must know and regret that they can never regain the character and charm that made them so desirable at the outset.

This is not the land of pleasant living because it has good opportunities for shopping. Salisbury is not attractive because it mirrors Glen Burnie or Landover. We need to think of the legacy we are leaving for the future and plan for limited expansion.

It is all too easy to accede to the immediate pressure for convenience and profit-making ventures. Jobs are often cited as a more altruistic motivation, but the accompanying costs do not support this. Our tax base relative to the needs of the county is shrinking, with resulting large increases in budgetary requests to the county.

The proposed school budget was cut by almost $5 million, and we have such embarrassing problems as shared school nurses. Crime in Salisbury is up so far this year 18 percent over the same period last year, and has increased by far more over the past 10 years. We have a sewage treatment plant that is in compliance with established limits for pollution only two months out of the year.

We must recognize that we have something very valuable in danger of being destroyed by following the status quo. The specific arguments against the proposed rezoning reflect the greater needs of our region as a whole.

Our children will have only us to blame for not meeting this challenge.

Judith Stribling
Bivalve

Future Growth Of Area Questioned

Editor Of The Times:

Recently several thoughtful and timely letters have appeared in your paper on the subject of the relatively uncontrolled development in our area. I would like to add to these the following letter, some of which is part of a letter sent to the Salisbury City Council.

I find alarming the proposed change in zoning of the annexed property between Route 349 and Culver Road from residential to neighborood business.

Traffic in this portion of Route 349 is already a problem, and tremendous growth in the area has put a strain on the two routes leading into Salisbury. Crime in the neighborhood is serious now; the convenience store just across Pemberton Drive has been robbed twice in the last four months.

Also, the location of Pemberton Elementary and the otherwise residential character of the region to the west of this property make such a reclassification ill-conceived.

We need to take stock of the changes happening in the Salisbury area, and to decide where we will draw some lines with development.

There is an existing shopping center on Route 50, not a mile from the proposed one on Route 349, which has been virtually closed for several years. We should be put-

Joint Cleanup Of Johnson Lake Urged

8/19/88

SALISBURY — Salisbury City Council President Robin Cockey will be asking the county and the state to participate in a joint project to clean up Johnson lake.

The council decided Monday that joint funding was necessary to clean up the lake, following a report from Public Works Director Thomas A. Plotts which estimated the project's cost at between $100,000 and $200,000. Plotts and residents of the area said the excessive growth of algae and weeds in the lake eventually begins to decompose, causing foul odors and impeding recreational activities.

Plotts said the state Department of Natural Resources and the Department of the Environment concluded in separate studies that first a herbicide should be applied to the lake at an annual cost of $800. Second, at a cost of at least $100,000, a study and subsequent implementation of methods to grow and harvest other aquatic life which will not cause the decomposition problem should be undertaken. Cockey said because the lake is not just in the city, joint funding is appropriate.

Hearing On Sludge Site Waived

8/17/88

SALISBURY — The Wicomico County Council Tuesday agreed to waive a public hearing to allow the City of Salisbury to use state land near the Poplar Hill Correction Camp in Quantico as a sludge site.

While the council approved the request, members were in agreement with Councilman Philip Tilghman, who took exception that city Public Works Assistant Director Newell "Chip" Messick III previously has requested waivers when the timing of the public hearing becomes an impediment to proceeding with the sludge application. Tilghman said the city should instead allow ample time to hold a public hearing before the site is needed for the project.

The council members decided it would approve the waiver because the site is state-owned, the project will be administered by the University of Maryland Agricultural Research Center and the surrounding land was already used for the same purpose. They did emphasize, however, that they will not make such an exception for future, similar requests.

...TUDY

(Continued from page A1)

...rth Salisbury Boulevard, Route ...0, and Hammond Street; the southeast sector, bounded by South Division Street, Eastern Shore Drive, Carroll Street, Snow Hill Road, and College Avenue; and the southwest section, whose boundaries are Eastern Shore Drive, College Avenue, Riverside Drive and Carroll Street.

Once the studies have been completed, reports will be reviewed by the Department of Public Works and the SHA and recommended improvement plans will be finalized. Construction will most likely be undertaken by both city and state crews, with the state providing most assistance in areas closely involving state routes. Private contractors may also be called in for certain improvements.

Messick said the key to the successful completion of this study will be continued cooperation between city and state. Such cooperation has been elemental in such projects as the recent improvement of the Mill Street/Riverside Drive/Camden Avenue/West Carroll Street intersection and the upgrading of railroad crossings throughout the city, most crossings currently under construction and one, on Naylor Mill Road, recently completed.

These improvements and those to be arrived at through the July study are by no means permanent solutions, according to Messick. Rapidly increasing city area — a 30 percent increase over the past two years alone — means an ever higher volume of traffic on city roads, heightening existing problems and creating new troubles. And improvement itself can draw more motorists to an area, thus creating a new need for updating and improving.

The SHA and Department of Public Works are working toward the implementation of several large-scale roads projects to provide long-term relief from the problems created by increasing traffic flow in and around the Salisbury area. Among these are the construction of two new bridges over the southern portion of the Wicomico River and the completion of the Salisbury Bypass to create a loop around the entire city.

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Roofing Job

8/2/88

Salisbury city workers place a fiberglass roof over a temporary booth set up in the middle of the Downtown Plaza Monday. Donald Russell, right, directs, from left to right, Audra Blake, John Gordy, Mike Ross and Russell Taylor, all city workers. (Times Photo by Karen Sweeney)

Jennifer Kajencki on the Downtown Plaza

Chamber Told Downtown Is 'Alive And Well'

8/19/88

By CHRIS ESTES
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Downtown Salisbury is alive and well.

That was the message Downtown Revitalization Director Jennifer Kajencki brought to the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce in a luncheon meeting at the Holiday Inn Thursday.

Kajencki told Chamber members that up to $25 million worth of improvements have been done, are in the process or are being planned.

She cited the renovations of the Salisbury Sheraton Inn, Humphrey's Place, the Market Street Inn and Equitable Bank. Schwinn Fitness and Fashion and Ursula's in the City Center have both expanded. She said the space left by Leon's Deli will become an Italian-Greek restaurant called Legends. There is proposed renovation for the county courthouse and the Hess Apparel facade. A new state office building and a multi-level retirement community complex are planned for "the district," as Kajencki calls it.

"There was a time when Main Street was everyone's neighborhood," Kajencki said.

She described the descent of downtowns across the country as people started shopping in malls and strip malls. She told how merchants put up aluminum and plywood fronts as "slipcovers" to disguise downtowns as strip malls.

"The need for a downtown revitalization was clear," she said.

One answer was to level the downtown and build a mall. That answer was rejected here, she said.

The Salisbury answer for revitalization began in 1980, with a study of the city's downtown area.

Assets discovered in that study were a rich archetecture dating back to the 1880s, the Wicomico river and a central geographic location.

Kajencki listed Downtown Revitalization's accomplishments since then:

- Physical improvement, with a pedestrian Downtown Plaza, Riverfront Park, improved facades and landscaping that provided a better human and business environment.
- The development of the Port of Salisbury Marina, which has 47 occupied slips and a waiting list for when any of those slips empty. She said the marina was part of the attraction which brought the Maryland Lady Wicomico River cruise ship, a popular local attraction.

One upcoming event to draw people — and their attention and money — to the downtown area is a boat docking contest Sept. 18. During the contest people can get rides in a tethered hot air balloon.

She also said the Christmas lighting ceremonies this year will be more elaborate, but plans for them will be announced later.

The recent Peach Festival — held in the rain July 23 and 24 — sold 1,300 quarts of peaches to people who came despite the inclement weather. Kajencki said there were 300 sales of $20 or more.

She said so many people came out for the Strawberry Festival earlier this year that there weren't enough strawberries to go around.

Boat Docking Contest Set

More Participants Due In Salisbury Event This Year

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — The third annual Watermen's Boat Docking Contest will be held Sunday at the Port of Salisbury Marina.

Four single events will lead up to the Mayor's Cup Team Competition, when crews will be able to vie for the title of Grand Champion.

According to Downtown Salisbury Revitalization Director Jenifer Kajencki, about 15 contestants are expected.

Last year's event, with 10 entries, was won by Billy Ward and the Miss Ellen of Crisfield.

To take part in the Mayor's Cup Team Competition, a waterman must have qualified for one of the four single events: wood boats with a beam less than 10 feet, wood boats 10 feet and more, fiberglass boats less than 10 feet and fiberglass boats 10 feet or more.

Kajencki said the boat must be a registered workboat 34 feet or more in length, the applicant must be the operator and owner of the boat. Each boat must have a safety person in addition to the captain, the boat must have four mooring lines, and the boat must be backed stern-first into the slip where the lines can be placed over the four pilings.

THE TEAM competition requires a crew of a captain and two linemen and follows the same course as the single events. The lines during this competition must be secured before and after the docking and be secured with a half-hitch tie. For all events, the best time wins.

First prize for the single events is $400 while second prize is $200. The Grand Champion's name will be engraved on the Mayor's Cup, and the captain will receive a smaller, engraved pewter cup as well as a Port of Salisbury pennant lettered with "Grand Champion" to fly from the winning boat. All contestants will receive Port of Salisbury T-shirts and will be able to top off their tanks up to 100 gallons of fuel for the trip home, courtesy of Cato Oil Inc., Delmarva Oil Inc., John F. Tilghman & Sons Inc., Taylor Oil Inc. and J. Wm. Gordy Fuel Co.

Trial runs will begin at 11 a.m. when contestants also can register, according to Kajencki, and the actual contests begin at noon. In between the contests, she said, Crab Alley will be entertaining the audience with their original Eastern Shore-flavored music.

FROM 4 TO 7 P.M. Brother Lowdown, a contemporary blues band, will play for marina visitors. From 5 to 7 p.m., visitors will be able to get a "bird's eye view" of the Wicomico River and Downtown Salisbury, Kajencki said, with tethered hot air balloon rides. Tickets, which are $10 each, will be limited but they can be won from WICO-FM.

9/13/88

Above, the 1987 Salisbury Watermen's Boat Docking Contest. Top right, Downtown Salisbury Revitalization Director Jenifer Kajencki holds the trophy for the contest's Mayor's Cup Team Competition. (Times Photo)

Another feature of this year's event, according to promotions director Deborah Merkle, will be the display of original artwork by local artists, including Grover Cantwell, Tom Jones, Alice Jackson, Becky Lowe, Myrna McGrath and Dot Braun.

Merkle said concession stands will line the marina selling such fare as barbecued chicken, barbecued ribs, crab cakes, oyster fritters, hot dogs and ice cream.

Merkle said this year's promotional sponsors are American Speedy Printing Co. and East Coast Advertising Agency. Sponsors for the cost of the event and the prizes are Wyatt Wholesale, *The Daily Times*, Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co., J. Roland Dashiell and Sons Inc., Ulrich's Marine Center, the city of Salisbury, Dennis Storage Co. Inc./Mayflower Agent, H.D. Metal Co. Inc., E.S. Adkins and Co., George, Miles and Buhr, Davis, Bowen & Friedel and Salisbury Brick Co.

Boat Docking Contest

Boat captain Jerry Lee Swift and safety man Mike Chappel dock Swift's boat, Lea Ann, at the third annual Waterman's Boat Docking Contest at the Port of Salisbury Marina Sunday afternoon. The Mayor's Cup Team Competition championship was won by Dwight Marshal of Smith Island and his boat, Miss Marshall. (Times Photo by April Hughes) 9/9/88

Landmark Destruction Brings Back Memories

I ran into Pete Cooper Saturday morning at the Grace United Methodist Church Festival. He asked me if I saw the picture in the paper the night before of the leveling of the old incinerator in Salisbury. I told him I did and only the morning before, I rode down Delaware Ave., by the incinerator, where it was being demolished.

I stopped the car for a few minutes and watched. My eyes filled with tears, as I thought of the many hours and years spent there. Also of the many men I had under me, many of whom are now deceased.

ONE MAN IN particular that I thought of was the late Henry Davis. He started with me as the crane operator.

It seems like only yesterday that it was being built and I was eagerly looking forward to becoming foreman. It opened in January 1951.

It was a beautiful building inside and out. The interior walls were light beige tile. The floor of course was concrete; and there were many, many windows. It didn't look at all like you would expect an incinerator to look.

Many residents in the area complained at first when it was being built but those same residents commented later on the big improvement it was over the open dump.

THE CITY DUMP used to be between Lake Street and Delaware Ave. It was jsut a "bog," very deep in places and infested with rodents.

When I was employed at Gunby Motors Co., I had hauled trash from the garage to the city dump many times. The construction of the incinerator was quite a big operation for the city of Salisbury.

Each morning a fire was built in the huge furnace. The garbage that had been dumped into the deep pit was picked up by a huge bucket operated by the crane operator on the fourth floor.

THE CRANE WOULD slide backwards bringing up the bucket of garbage. Heavy concerte doors opened on the top of the furnace and the garbage was dropped down into the fourteen hundred and fifty to 1500 degree heat and flame. We averaged burning 800 tons of garbage a month.

City garbage trucks made daily pickups, as they still do today.

The ashes from the furnace were dropped into a truck that was on the lower level and then

Shore Memories by Carl Esham

hauled to a land fill. The tile walls was scrubbed down twice a year, and the windows were washed whenever they needed to be.

Many school children were brought out for a tour of the building, and to see the operation. They were always amazed at the cleanliness, and expressed the fact of there being very little odor.

WE HAD QUITE a few visitors from Baltimore and surrounding areas who came to see the building and see it in operation. I have copies of letters that were sent to the City Hall complimenting us on the cleanliness of the building and its operation and that it was one of the best in the state of Maryland — that of course made me very proud.

I remember one day receiving a call from a very frantic lady. She said her diamond ring had mistakenly got in the garbage and was there any way I could help her find it. Well, "that was like trying to find a needle in a haystack!"

But I told her I'd do what I could. She said, "if you'll let the truck dump the ashes in may back yard, I'll sift through them and gladly see that the ashes get to the landfill. I'm sorry to say she didn't find it — the excessive heat probably melted it.

ANOTHER FRANTIC call I remember was from an insurance man who hid days collection receipts in his garbage can in the kitchen. His wife, not knowing this, puts the garbage out the next morning and it was picked up by the truck.

The man heard the truck, thought of his money and before he could get out to them, they were well up the street. He asked the driver if he would dump the load of garbage in his backyard, so he could go through it.

They dumped the garbage in his backyard and I'm happy to say he found his money. The man borrowed a truck, loaded the garbage and carried it to the incinerator.

One afternoon, I had relieved one of the firemen for lunch. I was dropping the grate down and cleaning out the ash and clinkers, and pulling the clinker back toward me in the furnace. I thought I saw some paper money.

I THOUGHT AT first it might be play money, but I looked again and decided to pull it out. As it happened a folded piece of paper had fallen down too beside the money. On the paper was the name of a well known business man. I took the paper and the twenty dollar bill to the man to see if it belonged to him. It didn't.

I haven't yet figured out how the bill and the paper came through such intense flame and heat of fifteen hundred degrees and didn't even scorch!

I retired in 1973 after spending 22 years at the incinerator, and it was a pleasure to work with all of my supervisors at Salisbury's City Hall for that many years.

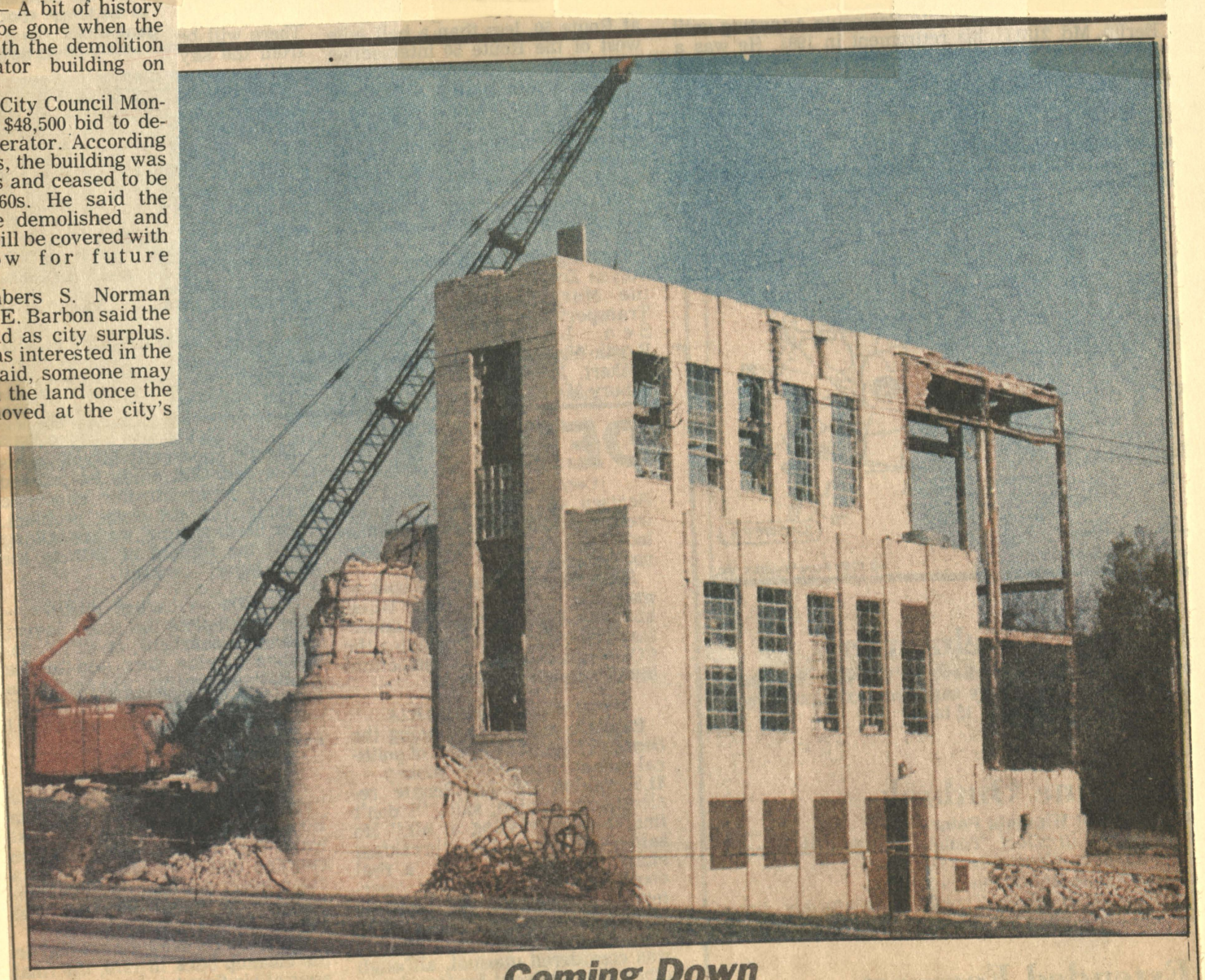
Rt. 50 Incinerator To Be Demolished

7/20

SALISBURY — A bit of history here will soon be gone when the city proceeds with the demolition of the incinerator building on Route 50.

The Salisbury City Council Monday approved a $48,500 bid to demolish the incinerator. According to Thomas Plotts, the building was built in the 1920s and ceased to be used in the 1960s. He said the building will be demolished and the foundation will be covered with dirt to allow for future development.

Council members S. Norman Holland and Jill E. Barbon said the land will be sold as city surplus. While no one was interested in the building, they said, someone may be interested in the land once the building is removed at the city's expense.



Coming Down

The municipal incinerator on west Route 50 in Salisbury, which was built in 1949, is being torn down because of structural problems. The cost of tearing down the facility, which has not been used in more than 10 years, is estimated at $48,000. (Times Photo by April Hughes) 10/7/88

and build a mall. That answer was re- go around.

Promoting Salisbury's

Officials Eye Marketing Campaign

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

9/4/88

SALISBURY — Downtown Salisbury is alive and well, according to local business people and officials, who believe a new marketing campaign should boost the area's economic future even further.

Salisbury Revitalization Director Jenifer Kajencki said the downtown district has a healthy future, spurred by existing business people committed to the area, new stores and the expansion of old stores. To continue this trend, she said, her office is working with the non-profit Maryland Main Street Development Association Inc. to promote the entire Center Salisbury Revitalization District (CSRD), which includes the downtown.

The Center Salisbury Revitalization Association and the district were established in January by the city council to pool district licensing fees for the promotion and revitalization of the area.

The program involves the creation of a packet highlighting real estate in the CSRD which is available for lease or sale. Kajencki said the packet includes information about Salisbury, testimonies from merchants and detailed descriptions of the available properties.

Kajencki said the Central Salisbury Revitalization Association is not getting in the business of real estate. Rather, she said, the packet provides the association with the means to bring the potential renter or buyer together with the property owner. She said 1,000 packets, expected to be completed next spring, will be sent in a five-state region to retailers, developers, and other professionals whose task is to identify potential retail sites.

The project is expected to cost about $7,000, $5,000 of which is a grant given the association by the state Department of Housing and Community Development. The remainder will be paid by the association.

The marketing campaign also will allow the association to target businesses members believe will add to the "mix" of businesses and stores already in the district. Kajencki said the association would to see

(See PLAZA, page A3)

DAILY LOTTERY" game — 6-3-8.

"PLAY FOUR" game — 5-1-3-9.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE (AP) — These Maryland lotteries were drawn Saturday night:

"DAILY LOTTERY" game — 9-4-5.

"PICK FOUR" game — 7-5-9-1.

"LOTTO" game — 06-15-16-20-25-26.

The Daily Times

East Carroll Street, Salisbury, MD 21801

FOUNDED as the Wicomico News (weekly) in May, 1886. Began daily publication as *The Salisbury Times* Dec. 3, 1923.

The Daily Times is published every day at Times Square, East Carroll Street, P.O. Box 1937, Salisbury, Maryland 21801. Second Class postage paid at Salisbury, Maryland 21801. PUBLICATION NUMBER USPS 146540.

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MEMBER of the Associated Press, American Newspaper Publishers Association, Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association and Audit Bureau of circulation.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By carrier per week, $2.05; by mail for 12 months $115.00; $57.48 for 6 months; $28.74 for 3 months, payable in advance. No mail orders accepted in localities served by carrier delivery. All carriers, dealers and distributors are independent contractors keeping their own accounts free from control, therefore *The Daily Times* is not responsible for advance payments made to them, their agents or representatives.

COMMUNICATIONS intended for publication must bear the writer's name and address. No consideration will be given anonymous letters.

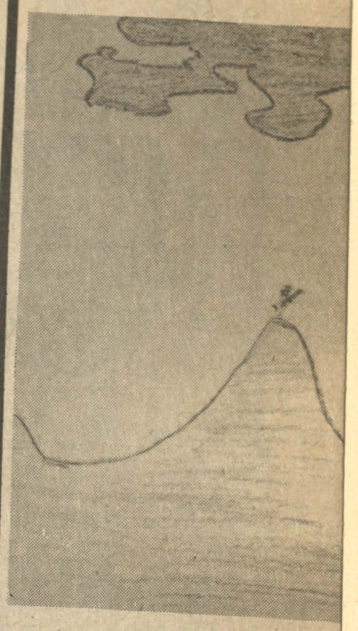
THE NEWSPAPER cannot be responsible for unsolicited photographs and manuscripts.

The advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for the space actually occupied by that portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred, whether such error is due to the negligence of the publisher's servants or otherwise, and there shall be no liability for non-insertion of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement.

9:55 p.m. 3:25 p.m.

Nanticoke Roaring Pt.

High	Low
10:35 a.m.	3:35 a.m.
11:05 p.m.	4:35 p.m.



By STEPHEN LOVELE

Redevelopment Of West Side Aired

9/8/88

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — More low-income housing, fewer industrial plants and more open space. Those were the major requests Salisbury residents, property owners and business people had of the Salisbury City Council Wednesday night during a public hearing on the West Side's redevelopment.

Cockey

About 70 people attended the public hearing, which the council scheduled as the first of two to gather comments regarding West Side redevelopment. According to Council President Robin Cockey, the council is trying to establish an "official blueprint" for the redevelopment site, which is bounded by Parsons Road on the west, Boundary Street on the north, north of Collins Street on the north and the Wicomico River on the east and south.

The West Side for years has been targeted by the city as a site for redevelopment. The Port of Salisbury marina was constructed as the focal point of a residential, office and commercial revitalization project modeled loosely after Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

HOUSING WAS THE major issue raised by the people who testified at the hearing. West Side Neighborhood Association President Priscilla Ballard said individual homeowners should decide whether they will be relocated from the area to make room for future development, as was suggested two years ago. Others, however, focused on constructing affordable low-income housing, rather than relocation.

New Directions president and Lake Street resident Billy Gene Jackson said the city should find ways developers can build affordable rental housing. He said low interest loans might be used not only to upgrade existing housing but to give people the opportunity to build their own homes, something which has not occurred in the area for many years.

Jackson

Jackson also said the city has a "hidden agenda" on the housing situation but he was appreciative of the hearing. He said he knows the council will eventually buy the existing homes in the area and hopes members "will be as fair to the people as you were to Tilghman Fertilizer."

Some people suggested the city raze Tilghman Fertilizer, which is adjacent to the marina. Mayor W. Paul Martin confirmed the city has a contract to purchase the 2½-acre plant. He said the purchase will not take place until the end of December and the contract calls for the demolition of the buildings.

(See PLAN, page 2)

Following the second, Sept. 21, hearing, Cockey said, the council will have a work session with the city planning and zoning staff and will draft a conceptual plan for staff review. After the staff formalizes the plan by early summer

Wicomico 11/15/88

Additional River Crossing Is Urged

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce has urged the State Highway Administration to look into the possibility of constructing a new Wicomico River crossing downriver from Salisbury.

In a letter to SHA Administrator Hal Kassoff, Chamber Executive Director William Postles said his group is particularly concerned about the future increase in traffic on Mill Street. The situation will only become worse as the growing population in western Wicomico County travels to destinations in the southern portions of Salisbury and the county, he said.

The Chamber has also recommended that the SHA begin immediately to coordinate its efforts with local officials in order to prevent confusion and to allow city and county planners the opportunity to incorporate a downriver crossing into their master plans.

Salisbury OKs Land Purchases

11/15/88

SALISBURY — A city purchase of two tracts in west Salisbury for $350,000 was approved by the city council Monday night.

The city will pay Gladys D. Church over a three-year peiod for 501-507 West Main Street and 104-106 Lake Street. The land, site of the Fanklin Hotel and Taxi Stand, is slated for use in the city's west side economic development program.

$3.05 Million Bond Sale Is Approved

10/25/88

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council has approved an ordinance empowering the city to issue and sell $3.05 million of bonds.

A portion of the bond sale — $1,057,500 — will be used for the purchase of the Tilghman Fertilizer plant for the expansion of the Port of Salisbury Marina. The remaining $367,500 of the plant's purchase price will be mortgaged by the city.

The remainder of the bond sale will be used for street and sewer improvements througout the city.

Parts Of Streets To Be Closed In City

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council has approved an ordinance closing a portion of two streets.

The measure closes about 162 feet of Byrd Street north of West Isabella Street and another street located about 158 feet north of West Isabella Street.

The request came from Steve W. Ashcraft and Randy Johnson of Black Duck Partnership. City Public Works Director Thomas Plotts said the streets are of no use to the city.

10/25/88

Promoting Salisbury's Downtown Key To Economic Future

Officials Eye Marketing Campaign

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

9/4/88

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(See PLAZA, page A3)

OLD FACE, NEW STORE. Salisbury Revitalization Director Jenifer Kajencki talks with Jim Coffman about his business in front of his new store on the Downtown Plaza. Coffman, known as the plaza's hotdog vendor, leased the store to house his eatery and provide a place to sell his fare during bad weather. (Times Photo by Susan Gerstel)

Public Input Sought On West Side Redevelopment

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — Residents, businesspeople, retailers and anyone else who is interested will have the opportunity Wednesday to voice their opinions about how the city should redevelop the West Side.

Cockey

Salisbury Mayor W. Paul Martin and the City Council scheduled the public meeting to formulate an official plan for the West Side's redevelopment. Another public hearing is scheduled for Sept. 21.

Following the public hearings, Council President Robin Cockey said, the city officials will devise a plan comprising the various ideas. He said the subsequent passing of a resolution will make the plan official and the city will have a blue print for any future development of the area.

"There is a need for a blueprint, a need for the city's own blueprint," Cockey said. "And, there's a need for public input."

Cockey said the council will not air its own opinions about the redevelopment because members want the public to feel free to have an open discussion about the future of the West Side, unhindered by preconceived ideas.

While previous plans were formulated by various interest groups, such as RUDAT, Cockey said none were the official plan of the city. He did say city officials are still aiming for a plan which would include residential, retail, office and entertainment development.

(See PLAN, page A3)

1988 Good Year For Del. Boating Safety

DOVER — Delaware boaters navigated the state's waterways more safely this year, with fewer accidents and fatalities, according to a report released by the Dela-

ruled Wednesday.

Also, the seven heirs of Ernest Timmons' $1.5 million estate have 30 days to find permanent solutions to problems with septic tanks and water systems. Hague said the court will supervise his order to see that it is carried out.

Hague said he expects an appeal of his ruling. William E. Moore, attorney for the 32 black tenant families living in the park on Delaware Route 26, called the ruling "great." However, Moore said he still has concerns, given the park's track record.

Mildred Laura Grant

OCEAN CITY — A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday in Atlantic United Methodist Church here for a member, Mildred Laura Grant, 76, of Ocean City, who died in her home Monday, Sept. 5, 1988, of heart failure.

Born in Salisbury, he was a son of the late Robert and Melinda Noble Murrell.

Surviving are his wife, Evalyn H. Murrell; a son, John R. Murrell, Salisbury, and several nieces and nephews.

Contributions may be made in the memory of the deceased to the Delmar Volunteer Fire Department, Delmar, Del. 19940.

Arrangements are being handled by the Short Funeral Home here.

heart failure.

Born in Salisbury, she was a member, Ger

Funera from 7 to 8 p.m.

Genevie

SALISBURY Christian Buria day at 1:30 p.m Sales Catholic

Hoag, 62, of Sal Peninsula Gene cal Center We 1988, of sclerode The Rev. R will officiate.

Born in Brid was a daughter Steven and Aug Surviving a Ralph Emer daughters, Susa man and Chris of Dover, N.J.

PLAN

(Continued from page 1)

suggestions also included the purchase of Chesapeake Shipbuilding, as well as Tilghman Fertilizer, to provide space for the marina's expansion, restaurants and small shops. Developer and businessman Bill Ahtes said the city should urge the Ward Foundation to locate its new museum on the riverfront instead of near city park, where land is currently committed.

BALLARD SUGGESTED the Perdue Farms plant should be relocated because the chicken processing facility has a disturbing odor. Both Martin and Jackson said Perdue is very important to the city as its major employer and they would not want to lose the jobs the plant provides. Martin said he believes the city and Perdue can solve the odor problem.

Jim McDonald, a local architect, and others stressed the importance of green, open space around the marina as well as in the residential area. McDonald also asked that the city not lose sight of the other side of the marina in its plan to redevelop the West Side.

R/UDAT members and Salisbury Revitalization Director Jenifer Kajencki postponed the presentation of their plan until the next public hearing when all their members are present. Kajencki said, however, that much of their plan had been suggested by Tuesday's participants.

Following the second, Sept. 21, hearing, Cockey said, the council will have a work session with the city planning and zoning staff and will draft a conceptual plan for staff review. After the staff formalizes the plan by early summer of next year, he said, another public hearing will be held and a plan will be approved by the council.

Cockey said anyone interested in commenting about the redevelopment can attend the next meeting or submit their views in writing to City Clerk Fara Tawes at her office in the Wicomico County Government Office Building.

Wicomico 11/15/88

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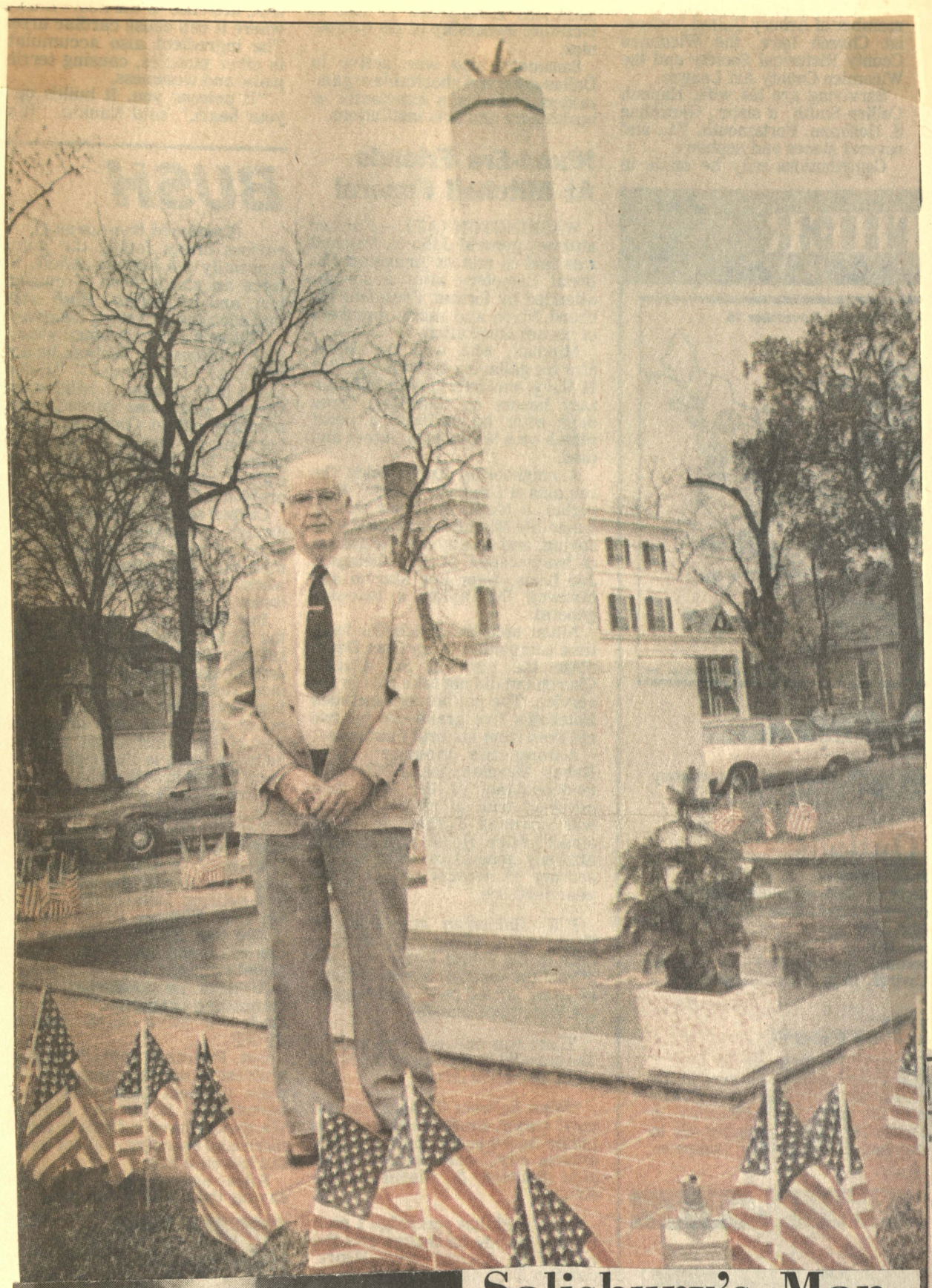
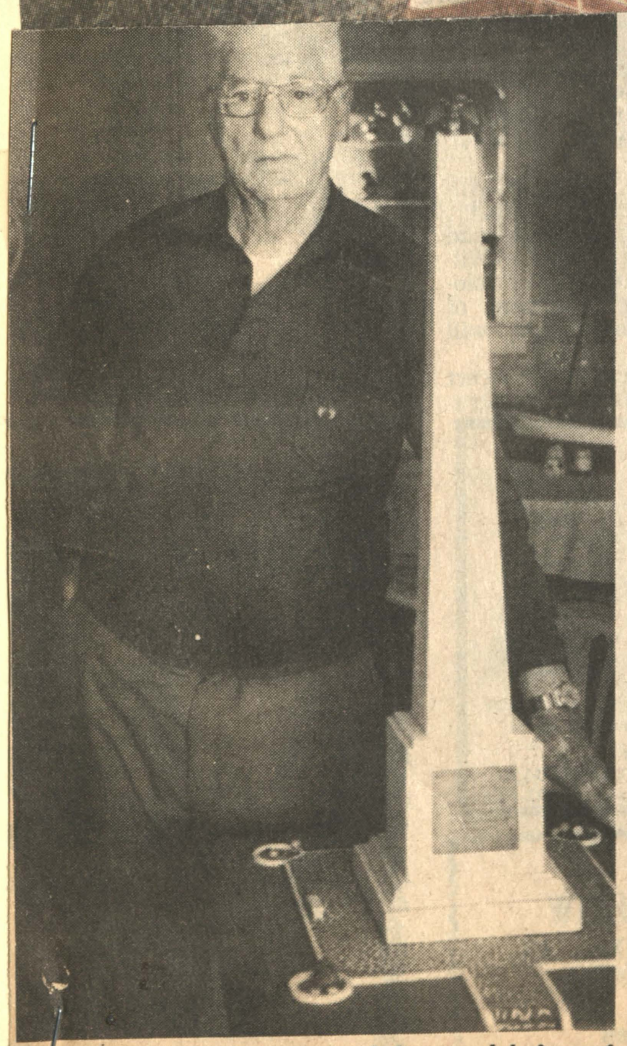
10/25/88





James Agnew of Salisbury stands by a model of one of the two memorials he created to those in Wicomico County who have lost their lives in war. Agnew got the idea when his son was in the military in the 1950s. (Times Photo by Chris Estes)

Salisbury's Man Of Monuments

SALISBURY - James Agnew has left two monuments in Wicomico County. One is for the living. The other is for the dead.

Agnew became a man of monuments in the 1950s, when his son, James R. Agnew, was assigned to an Army unit in Germany. Agnew became more aware of the sacrifices made in war.

When talking about his new Peace Memorial on Route 50, he mentions mothers, and how they, most of all, do not want war.

It was in the 1950s Agnew built a monument, on Route 13 across from Pep Boys, to those who made the ultimate sacrifice — the sons of the mothers.

That monument, built by the city from donated materials, stands today as a memorial to those from Wicomico County who gave their lives for their country. Their names are listed on paper and kept in a vault opened from the rear of the monument.

It is not complete, however; the names of Vietnam casualties have not been added. "They told me they lost the key to open it up, he said. If they'd give me the names I'd get it open.

Agnew's second monument, built recently along Route 50, is to the living.

Agnew said the monument was inspired by the Peace Bridge to Canada, by an era in which Russia's Gorbachev can come here, in which President Reagan may travel to the land he once called an evil empire.

This is a memorial to the living; it's got nothing to do with the dead, Agnew said.

Raising money and donating materials for the monument was easy, Agnew said. Getting them built took a little longer.

The first was built by the city, the second by several people and companies, including students from the Wicomico County Applied Technology School.

On top of the peace monument is a copper torch plated with gold leaf, an idea he got from *National Geographic*'s magazine coverage of the Statue of Liberty.

12/9/88

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Moument Lacks Aesthetic Balance

Editor Of The Times:

James Agnew is a well-meaning, good-hearted individual.

His drive to do something for the community and to remember all those who suffered in war is quite laudable. However, it is a shame that he did not seek some aesthetic assistance in his latest monument.

I have met no one who considers the Peace Memorial to be the thing of beauty it could have been. A beautiful tree was destroyed for the sake of a memorial to peace which could — and should — have been something of pride for the entire community.

Was there no oversight on this project? Did no one in government, business or the community care enough about the image this miniature Washington's monument with surrounding trinkets would project to people coming into Salisbury?

What do a boy and a girl under a red umbrella have to do with peace?

What does a compass, or sextant, or whatever have to do with peace?

Mr. Agnew had a wonderful idea. With better execution it could have been a source of pride to everyone. It is sad that it isn't.

Name Withheld
Upon Request

12/14/88

Memorial Garden

f the vice presidents of Master Plumbers Associa- piping at Wicomico Salisbury Peace for Freedom t Route 50 and North Division Street, which is to be . All materials for the garden were donated by and the designer is James Agnew. (Times Photo

8/28/88

Centre At

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — As proposed, th
Centre At Salisbury shopping mall v
the largest mall on the Eastern Shor
second only to the Christiana Mall
Delmarva Peninsula.

A ground-breaking ceremony f
Route 13 mall, off the north end
bypass, is scheduled Wednesday
expected completion date is spring

The mall's developers, Petrie,
man and Partners Inc., are prop
693,842 square feet of leasable sp
the first phase of construction. This
will include four anchor stores —
cov's, J.C. Penney, Leggett and
gomery Ward — and about 80 sp
stores.

The second phase of the mall w
clude a 110,000-square-foot addition
fifth department store. In compa
the Christiana Mall just south of Wil
ton contains 880,000 square feet of
able space and has Strawbrid
Clothier, Macy's and J.C. Penney
anchors.

CHUCK LAPINE, a partner of P
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rday night:
"DAILY LOTTERY" game —
3-6.
"PICK FOUR" game — 1-1-4-1.
"LOTTO" game —
-15-23-26-35-36.

The Daily Times

ast Carroll Street, Salisbury, MD 21801

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Ocean City

High	Low
7:08 a.m.	12:53 a.m.
7:31 p.m.	1:31 p.m.

Rehoboth Beach

High	Low
7:29 a.m.	1:14 a.m.
7:52 p.m.	1:52 p.m.

Chincoteague Inlet

High	Low
8:14 a.m.	1:59 a.m.
8:37 p.m.	2:37 p.m.

Tangier Light

High	Low
11:52 a.m.	5:32 a.m.
Midnight	6:14 p.m.

Crisfield

High	Low
12:23 a.m.	6:28 a.m.
12:48 p.m.	7:10 p.m.

Nanticoke Roaring Pt.

High	Low
1:33 a.m.	7:38 a.m.
1:58 p.m.	8:20 p.m.

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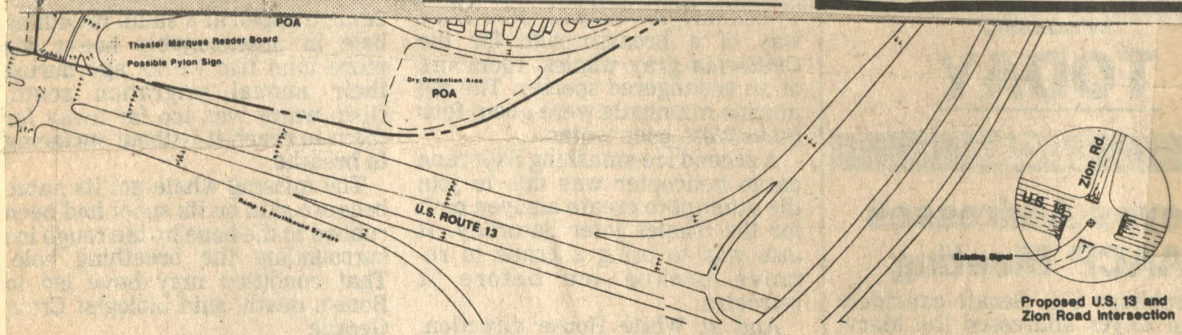

Proposed U.S. 13 and Zion Road Intersection

MALL

(Continued from page A1)

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Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. What is an eyesore to one can be beautiful to others. Mr. Agnew's perseverance, despite all kinds of obstacles, criticism and the death of his wife, to construct his monument with donated funds, labor, materials and location is a beautiful example of unselfish community involvement and improvement.

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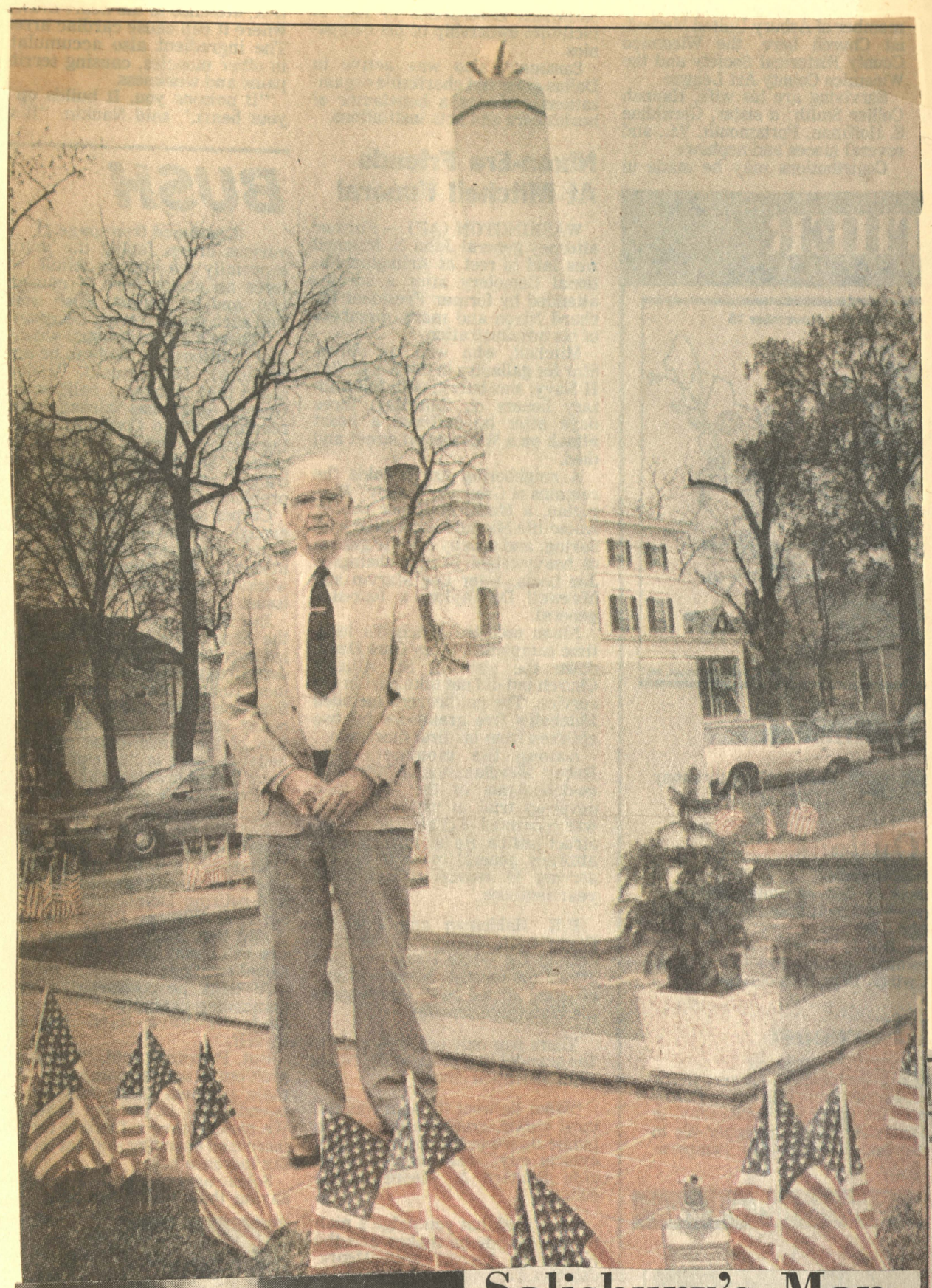


Salisbury's Man Of Monuments

SALISBURY - James Agnew has left two monuments in Wicomico County. One is for the living. The other is for the dead.

Agnew became a man of monuments in the 1950s, when his son, James R. Agnew, was assigned to an Army unit in Germany. Agnew became more aware of the sacrifices made in war.

When talking about his new Peace Memorial on Route 50, he mentions mothers, and how they, most of all, do not want war.

It was in the 1950s Agnew built a monument, on Route 13 across from Pep Boys, to those who made the ultimate sacrifice — the sons of the mothers.

That monument, built by the city from donated materials, stands today as a memorial to those from Wicomico County who gave their lives for their country. Their names are listed on paper and kept in a vault opened from the rear of the monument.

It is not complete, however; the names of Vietnam casualties have not been added. "They told me they lost the key to open it up, he said. If they'd give me the names I'd get it open.

Agnew's second monument, built recently along Route 50, is to the living.

Agnew said the monument was inspired by the Peace Bridge to Canada, by an era in which Russia's Gorbachev can come here, in which President Reagan may travel to the land he once called an evil empire.

This is a memorial to the living; it's got nothing to do with the dead, Agnew said.

Raising money and donating materials for the monument was easy, Agnew said. Getting them built took a little longer.

The first was built by the city, the second by several people and companies, including students from the Wicomico County Applied Technology School.

On top of the peace monument is a copper torch plated with gold leaf, an idea he got from *National Geographic*'s magazine coverage of the Statue of Liberty.

12/8/88

James Agnew of Salisbury stands by a model of one of the two memorials he created to those in Wicomico County who have lost their lives in war. Agnew got the idea when his son was in the military in the 1950s. (Times Photo by Chris Estes)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Moument Lacks Aesthetic Balance

Editor Of The Times:

James Agnew is a well-mean... good-hearted individual.

His drive to do something fo... community and to remembe... those who suffered in war is c... laudable. However, it is a sh... that he did not seek some aest... assistance in his latest monum...

I have met no one who cons... the Peace Memorial to be the ... of beauty it could have been. A beautiful tree was destroyed for the sake of a memorial to peace which could — and should — have been something of pride for the entire community.

Was there no oversight on this project? Did no one in government, business or the community care enough about the image this miniature Washington's monument with surrounding trinkets would project to people coming into Salisbury?

What do a boy and a girl under a red umbrella have to do with peace?

What does a compass, or sextant, or whatever have to do with peace?

Mr. Agnew had a wonderful idea. With better execution it could have been a source of pride to everyone. It is sad that it isn't.

Name Withheld
Upon Request

12/18/88

Memorial Garden

... the vice presidents of Master ... piping at Wicomico Salisbury ... t Route 50 and North Division St... . All materials for the garde... and the designer is James Ag...

...ssocia... ...reedom ...is to be ...ated by ...s Photo

Proposal Could Save Lake

Centre At Salisbury Is Giant Among Shore Mall

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Of The Times Staff

SALISBURY — As proposed, the new Centre At Salisbury shopping mall will be the largest mall on the Eastern Shore and second only to the Christiana Mall on the Delmarva Peninsula.

A ground-breaking ceremony for the Route 13 mall, off the north end of the bypass, is scheduled Wednesday. The expected completion date is spring 1990.

The mall's developers, Petrie, Dierman and Partners Inc., are proposing 693,842 square feet of leasable space in the first phase of construction. This phase will include four anchor stores — Boscov's, J.C. Penney, Leggett and Montgomery Ward — and about 80 specialty stores.

The second phase of the mall will include a 110,000-square-foot addition for a fifth department store. In comparison, the Christiana Mall just south of Wilmington contains 880,000 square feet of leasable space and has Strawbridge & Clothier, Macy's and J.C. Penney as its anchors.

CHUCK LAPINE, a partner of Petrie, Dierman and Partners, said size is not necessarily a drawing card. He said the size only matters when the tenant mix — a varied selection of stores — provides shoppers with both different merchandise and comparison shopping opportunities all under one roof.

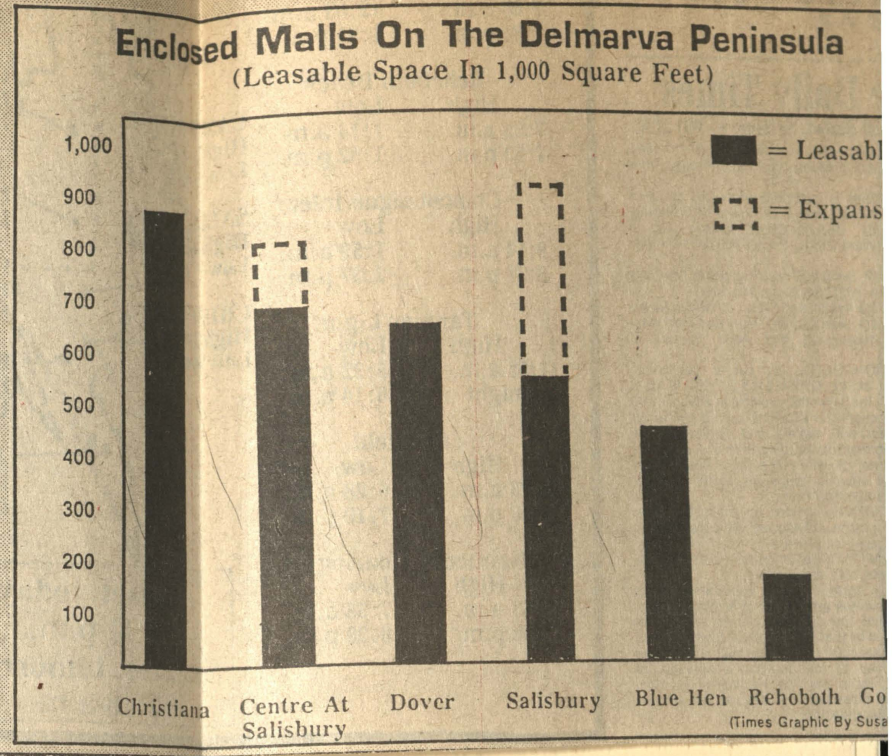
Following the Centre in size is the Dover Mall, with 650,000 square feet of leasable space. The anchors are Boscov's, Leggett and Sears.

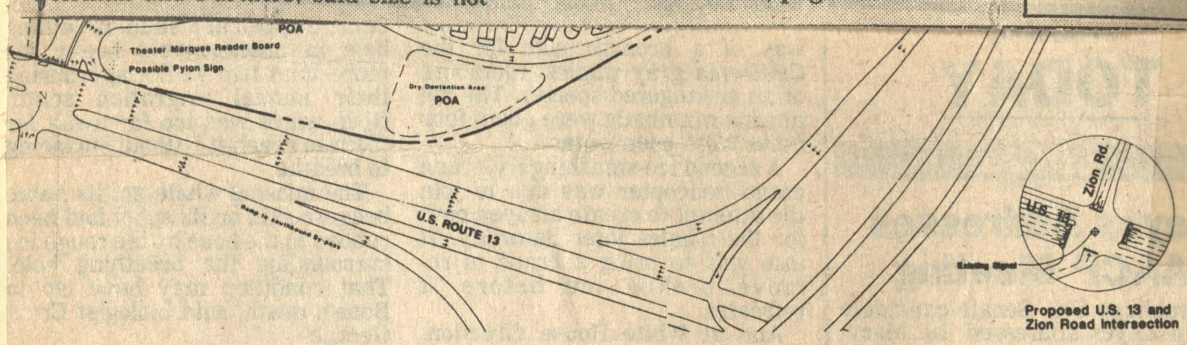
The Salisbury Mall has 545,000 square feet and about 80 stores, 75 of which are occupied, according to a report by the Salisbury Wicomico Planning and Zoning staff. The report also states a 360,000-square-foot addition has been informally discussed with the planning staff.

Harry Reed of the Salisbury Mall's management company, Kravco Co., said he could not discuss details of the planned expansion but did say the figure is in the range being discussed. The mall's current anchor stores are Hecht Co., Sears and Peebles.

The Blue Hen Mall in Dover has 450,000 square feet of leasable space. Of its 55 stores, 15 are vacant. The anchors are J.C. Penney and Rose's.

See MALL, page A2)





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WICOMICO

Poplar Hill Featured In New Book

SALISBURY — Poplar Hill Mansion, in Salisbury, is one of the houses featured in a new book published this month, *Great Houses of Maryland.*

"Two 19th-century citywide fires took most of Salisbury's early architecture. The mansion on Poplar Hill Avenue, built on part of a 1732 land grant, was one of the only 18th-century buildings to survive.

"Lest Providence take too much credit for preserving Salisbury's oldest building, there is a cast of characters as long as its history who have played parts in ensuring the status of the place ...," we learn from the chapter in the book devoted to Poplar Hill Mansion.

This chapter, which includes five photographs, recounts some of the mystery — but alas, cannot dispel it — that shrouds the origins of this outstanding example of formal Georgian architecture, and briefly chronicles the story of the mansion down to the present day.

The Teackle Mansion, in Princess Anne, and the Neall House in Easton, are other Eastern Shore houses featured in the book.

Including Poplar Hill and the others, *Great Houses of Maryland* describes 21 of Maryland's loveliest houses — from the Eastern Shore to Baltimore City, and from southern Maryland to the western part of the state. All of the houses featured are open to the public, which was one of the major criteria for their selection. Most, though not all, have furnishings contemporaneous with their early years.

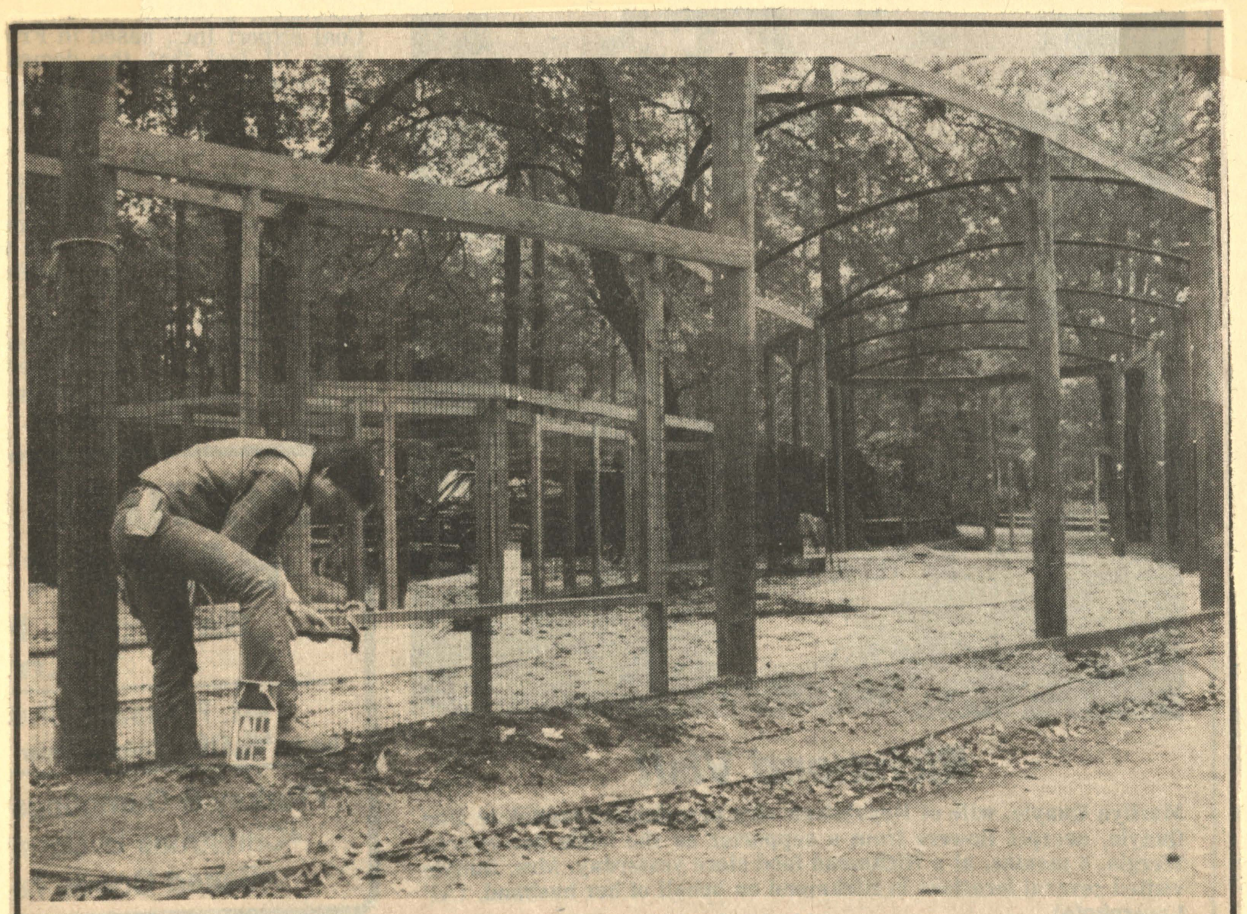
The author, Susan Stiles Dowell, has studied these buildings extensively and has been particularly sensitive to the stories of the people who have been involved with them — the people who built them, loved them, lived and died in them. She conveys, too, a warm appreciation of the rich architectural heritage that Maryland has in her historic houses.

Accompanying the narratives are spectacular photographs by the prominent photographer Marion E. Warren. These are broad vistas of the houses in their settings, views of individual rooms, and close-ups of myriad details. Most of the photographs — all commissioned for this volume — are in color.

Dowell is a freelance writer, the co-author of *Mrs. Kitching's Smith Island Cookbook,* a contributing editor to *Southern Accents,* and a frequent contributor to *Maryland Magazine* and other periodicals. She is widely known for her perceptive accounts of historic houses. Warren, a professonal photographer, is the author of a number of photographic books.

Great Houses of Maryland is published this month by Tidewater Publishers, of Centreville. It is priced at $34.95 and is available at area bookstores throughout the state.

Poplar Hill Mansion. Photograph by M.E. Warren, from Great Houses of Maryland.



New Zoo Exhibit

Brian Donovan, of B.V. Donovan Carpentry of Delmar, places wire over the frame of the new waterfowl exhibit at the Salisbury City Zoo Wednesday. He said the waterfowl enclosure will be completed Friday. (Times Photo by Karen Sweeney)

4/3/88

Proposal Could Save Lake

12/20/88

By SUSAN GERSTEL
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — Johnson's Lake may once again become a recreational haven if a state proposal to rid the lake's hyperactive plant growth is passed during the next General Assembly.

Property owners along Johnson's Lake have for several years complained that the incessant algae growth destroyed its reputation for fishing and boating activities. A proposal by the state Department of the Environment is designed not only to restore Johnson Lake's recreational use but help other bodies of water in Maryland suffering from the same problem.

According to state Del. Norman Conway, D-Wicomico-38th, the Department of the Environment and the Water Resources Administration will introduce the pilot program as a bond bill package in the upcoming General Assembly. While the exact funding is still uncertain, he said he expects about $75,000 will be proposed to study the northern prong of the lake and determine what can be done to decrease the abundant supply of nutrients causing the overgrowth.

Conway said the program would use the results from Johnson's Lake to help similar situations in other areas. He said this program could benefit other bodies of water such as Tony Tank and Coulbourne Mill ponds.

Rebecca Burner, director of the Department of Environment's inter-governmental relations office, said the department currently does not have state funds for pollution problems affecting bodies of water in the state. She said a number of lakes in Maryland have problems similar to Johnson's Lake.

Under this new Small Estuaries and Creeks program, Burner said, the department is proposing a number of specific projects with different geological status. She said local governments will be expected to either provide 50 percent of the projects' costs with money or with in-kind services, such as labor for the projects. She said the projects will entail studying the problem, determining solutions and their costs and, finally, correcting the problems.

Two property owners, Sam Tuttle and Betsy Fifer, have been advocates of the lake for several years, seeking help from local government and finally from Conway. Tuttle, a Johnson Lake Association property owner, was excited when he heard about the department's proposal.

"It would mean some hope for the little animals and fish that live there," Tuttle said. He said the health of the lake's environment should be the number one priority of the program.

Fifer, a Poet's Colony property owner, said she is very glad the state is finally doing something about the problem. She said a 350-name petition she and her neighbors gathered must have had some influence.

Fifer, who owns frontage on the lake, said she bought her property 10 years ago because of the reputation the pond had for fishing. Three years ago, she said, swimming was banned because of the overgrowth and the drawing down of the lake to eliminate the problem discouraged the fish from returning.

Fifer said her neighbors on the Brewington Branch no longer have a reason to keep boats and maintain their docks. She said the property owners are paying waterfront taxes but don't have the use of the water. She said the property owners also must endure the odors which come from the lake.

Traffic Concerns Citizens

12/13/88

By Susan Gerstel
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — Two neighborhood association representatives Monday urged the Salisbury City Council to maintain the residential character of their areas when trying to improve city traffic conditions.

The requests by Bruce Robson of the Johnson Lake Association and Chris Musello of the Newtowne Association came following a preliminary report of a citywide traffic study.

City Public Works Director Thomas Plotts told the council engineering consultants Post, Buckley, Schuh and Jernigan submitted a preliminary report on four intersections and two corridors.

The intersections are East Main Street/Long Avenue/Mt. Hermon Road/Truitt Street/East William Street; Snow Hill Road/ Schumaker Drive; North Division Street/ Union Avenue and East Main Street/Snow Hill Road and East Main Street/ Ward Street. The two corridors are North Division Street and Camden Avenue.

Musello and Robson said their neighbors are concerned about the increased use of local streets as heavy traffic corridors, such as North Division Street. Council President Robin Cockey said the council will take this into consideration as its members are interested in preserving the city's quality of life.

Plotts said the consultants' recommendations thus far are very technical and do not take into consideration any local needs. He said a meeting with the consultants Jan. 4 will allow his department and the council to voice their special concerns about traffic problems and patterns.

Following the meeting, Plotts said, he would expect a final report and recommendations within about 30 days. He said the report cost the city slightly less than $40,000, $25,000 being paid by the city and $15,000 being paid by the state.

Once the final recommendations are presented, Plotts said, minor problems requiring painting or signs can be corrected while other problems will have to be prioritized and be budgeted by the city as funding becomes available.

Cockey said the council "will probably hold a public hearing before it adopts a set of solutions."

THE DAILY TIMES
Edward C. White, Publisher and General Manager
Mel Toadvine, Managing Editor
Greg Bassett, Editorial Page Editor
PAGE 4 Salisbury, Md., Tuesday, July 25, 1989

Cleaning Up Johnson Pond

You don't have to be all that old to remember when Johnson Pond was one of the prettiest spots in Wicomico County. The pond served as an attraction for freshwater fishermen and swimmers. Its wooded, swampy areas were a haven for canoeing enthusiasts.

But then nutrients from agricultural runoff, as well as pollution from nearby commercial, industrial and residential development, turned Johnson Pond into an ecological nightmare. Algae began growing like an underwater weed, taking oxygen out of the water and killing the fish. The pond went from being a prime recreational area to an unmanaged mess.

But now there appears to be new hope for Johnson Pond. The city of Salisbury and Wicomico County officials, aided by a $200,000 matching grant from the state of Maryland, have agreed on a $520,000 cleanup program for Johnson Pond. The cleanup plan includes the purchase of a $70,000 floating plant harvester and trash collector that would remove algae. The harvester can also be used on other waterways in the city and county. The two governments will each spend $115,000, spread over 20 years, on a complete program that would curtail further pollution of the pond.

Only by working together could this cleanup effort be achieved. Officials should be lauded in their efforts to restore Johnson Pond.

Agreement reached to clean up pond

12/19/90

SALISBURY — The Wicomico County Council Tuesday signed an inter-agency agreement between the county and the city of Salisbury for the restoration and cleanup of Johnson Pond.

The $520,000 project will be shared by the city and county, and will be offset by a state grant of $290,000.

Signs Of Growth Are Everywhere

1/8/89

A current commercial on local radio stations concludes its pitch with something like this:

"You'll find us on Route 13, just south of the university."

For those who welcome growth, it has the distinct sound of progress. For others it has the ring of foreboding for those not at all anxious for change.

It wasn't too many years ago that our university was a small teachers' college with 300 students at most. Now the enrollment is 4,000 or more. New buildings go up. They are all a part of the economic and cultural mix of a growing area.

It is synonymous with what is happening all over this city and environs. Growth signs are everywhere. New businesses arrive. Many new residential areas spring up on the outskirts. Our airport is getting a new terminal building.

Our metropolitan area has reached the point where some things occasioned by growth need attention. From areas such as Baltimore and Washington, with their three- and four-lane beltways, we hear from those travelers who marvel that here you can get to work in 15 or 20 minutes instead of an hour or two in constant traffic backups.

LITTLE TRAFFIC jams now occur here without the need of a major highway accident to provoke it. We see backups at certain intersections, not bad by metropolitan standards, but sure to get worse if nothing is done.

Clearly the time is at hand for a major expansion of the city's streets. The big question is where and how,

Scratch Pad
By DICK MOORE

and most importantly, how much?

Carroll Street, Waverly Drive, and the new wide Eastern Shore Drive were hailed as major improvements. They get crowded now and then. Eastern Shore Drive, though adequate now, is becoming a major street for commercial growth.

More and more, we see certain intersections with four-way "Stop" signs as the sole means of traffic control. It's a courtesy system which works now, but traffic signals are inevitable. Time was when you could count all of the traffic lights in this town on the fingers of one hand.

Salisbury's Mayor Paul Martin, always a keen student of growth and progress, was asked about some of these things a few days ago. Right now, consultants are being asked for advice on how best to approach it, he said.

"We want expert advice on what to do about better street alignment, new streets, and traffic signals," he said.

He added it will cost money, noting that just a new traffic signal can run from $60,000 to $150,000.

He said the state hopes to have in place by 1993 the second segment of what could be called the northern bypass, connecting Route 50 from the west to the new shopping center just begun.

IT WILL carry through traffic eastward to Route 50 and the beaches, relieving some pressure on Salisbury through town.

Let's hope the state can maintain its schedule. We can recall that the Route 13 bypass around Salisbury to the east took 20 years to prepare and construct.

Years ahead, the mayor talked of the need of a second bridge over the river, though he sees it as still years away. Just the bridge and access could run to $60 million or more at today's prices.

Streets are not the sole problem. There's water and sewer for a growing city which once had just 17,000 people. It is now approaching 50,000 for the core area.

And, don't forget police protection. "Last year, we had 29,000 police responses," he said.

We can remember a time when the police department could go through a whole day without an accident reported or the note of a crime on the daily blotter.

For this writer, at least, it's been an exciting thing to watch a country town grow into a city which now is literally bursting at the seams.

By reason of geography and the progressive attitude of its public officials, Salisbury continues to attract more people. Maintaining it as a comfortable place to live is an ongoing job, requiring money and overcoming resistance to change.

Next time you fret in a small traffic delay here, think of those on the Baltimore Beltway, surely a dismal way to start and end the day. The city is working on it, but such things do take time.

Salisbury Mayor Gives Quarterly Report

2/1/89

By PAUL DAVIES
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — The various city police, fire and building departments here had a busy three months, according to a recent report.

The city was active in the purchase of land, sale of bonds and review of private development plans.

Mayor W. Paul Martin issued the second quarter report for fiscal 1989 to the city council this week. The 44-page report is available to the public.

Some of the executive department activities during the past months included:

•The Coty Cox Branch cleanup at Wicomico River began after the city received a $100,000 state grant to help pay for the two-year $170,000 project.

•The United Way project received more than $2.2 million in contributions, which was a 13 percent increase over last year.

•More than $3 million in municipal bonds were sold in November at an average interest rate of 6.9 percent.

•The city purchased the Franklin Hotel property in November for $350,000 and the Tilghman Fertilizer property for $1.4 million in December.

Other city departments were active during the last quarter. Each department issued a breakdown of its accomplishments.

The public works department made 4,980 inspections, issued 496 permits, 783 violation notices and attended 26 public night meetings, according to the report.

The finance department collected more than $7.8 million and spent close to $5 million in general revenues as of Dec. 31, the report said.

The city police department issued 5,141 tickets and collected $15,817 during the quarter.

The fire department had 169 alarms in the city and 162 outside of the city. There was close to $140,000 in fire property damage in the area, according to the report.

SPECIAL NOTICE
CITY OF SALISBURY, MD.

Special arrangements have been made to collect holiday wrappings and boxes in addition to normal garbage on the regular collection days beginning December 26 and ending January 5. These materials should be placed in boxes, baskets or cans in such a way that they can be easily handled. Garbage must be placed in regular containers.

Automated pickup customers with extra items please hold for normal rubbish pickup.

Due to changes in pick-up routes from December 25 through January 5 materials for pick-up should be at the curb by 8:00 A.M. Normal garbage regulations will be in effect after January 5.

December 25 and Jan. 1 are City holidays; therefore, there will be no garbage collection on these days and City offices will be closed.

The Municipal Zoo will be closed on December 25, Christmas Day.

Christmas trees will be picked up in a special collection from January 2 through 10, 1990.

Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year
MAYOR, COUNCILMEN and EMPLOYEES

Bulldozing Along The Wicomico

1/89

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I must ask many of the questions raised by this series about our own environment here in the Salisbury area. What protection has the Critical Area legislation provided? I have seen more construction along our waterways than before this so called protective legislation was passed. Right here in Salisbury, the last natural wetlands area is being bulldozed right on Riverside Drive.

I can not fathom the possible excuses for this construction project. I have seen the turtles, raccoons, and rabbits that call this particular area home. The only reason I can see for the destruction of this wetlands, is greed, pure and simple. Where are our city, county, and state governments? Why is this being allowed to happen?

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We will look forward to the near future when we can watch a PBS series about how Maryland destroyed its wetlands and killed its native species. Not exactly the manner in which I wanted Maryland to make it into international prominence for its environmental policies.

Lawrence C. Robinson
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1/15/89

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Any government branch or concerned citizen had the opportunity for over two years to purchase this property and do what ever their wish may be. I, unlike other interested groups, purchased the property to only place a single family dwelling and not to develop multi-town houses or condos, far from what I would consider (greed, pure and simple).

Maryland is adopting laws within the Critical Area legislation that far exceed our neighboring states of Delaware and Virginia. I am complying with these standards along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer regulations and many additional government agencies required permits.

This is one citizen who feels I have enough government control over my life and property and I'm sure any citizen owning property along waterways would agree. All the homes built on Riverside Drive — and basically everywhere — disturb the habitats of animals and nature.

Is this one any different?

I'd like to end by saying if this family dwelling is upsetting any person, party or group or etc., to the degree they want to put there money where there mouth is, please come forward as soon as possible.

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Edward C. White, Publisher and General Manager
Mel Toadvine, Managing Editor
Donald Brown, Advertising Manager — Barbara Bradley, Classified Supervisor
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PAGE A10 Salisbury, Md., Sunday, December 11, 1988

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But, when budget problems hit the state's coffers in the early 1980s, officials found the Open Space budget a good place to grab extra cash for the General Fund. A cap was placed on how much of the transfer tax could be devoted to Open Space projects.

Now, in light of the state's budget surplus, a bill before the Maryland General Assembly would take the cap off Open Space and devote the full receipts to this worthwhile program.

Recreation and parks officials are hopeful the bill will be approved. In many counties on the Eastern Shore, a lack of funding has postponed acquisition of park and recreation land — areas that are sorely needed as development intrudes more and more into our lives. A group of supporters has even produced a television public service announcement that asks people to encourage their legislators to vote to lift the cap.

Lifting the cap is a good idea. We too urge its support.

Expansion Of Mall Approved

By PAUL DAVIES
Daily Times Staff Writer

2/14/89

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The rezoning was granted after some drawn-out debate over conditions the council attached to the plan. The council requested the developer meet a list of conditions before proceeding with the expansion.

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THE COUNCIL did not adopt the findings of fact on the rezoning. The board is expected to review all the findings at a later date. The council did vote to have the approved conditions entered into public land records.

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In a related matter, the developer withdrew a petition to have St. Alban's Drive closed. The developer is expected to come back with a revised plan for St. Alban's Drive at a later date.

Toxic Sewer Plant Discharges Pouring Into Wicomico River

2/9/89

By PAUL DAVIES
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — Environmental officials said Wednesday the Salisbury sewage plant is discharging unsafe levels of toxic chemicals into the Wicomico River and has until 1992 to meet federal standards.

Tests indicate high levels of metals were found in effluent discharged into the river by the city's sewage treatment plant.

"It's not posing any threat to the public. The water in the area [tested] is not used for public consumption," director of public works Tom Plotts said.

The Marine Road plant was one of 25 industrial companies and public sewage plants the state said did not meet federal standards by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The public works department was notified of the test results Wednesday and is taking the necessary steps to locate where the problem is coming from, Plotts said.

Public sewage plants in Annapolis, Baltimore and Hartford County also did not meet the EPA standards.

Environmental officials consider the high toxic levels unsafe for humans and fish

The high level of toxic chemicals "will not have any far reaching effects, but are not to be dismissed," Plotts said.

"Some fish in the area may be affected, but if they aren't already dead then there is nothing wrong with them," he said.

The U.S. Congress ordered every state to submit a list of sites that did not meet the federal standards by Feb. 4.

Three tests were taken from Dec. 1987 to Dec. 1988 at the Salisbury plant, which treats 5.3 million gallons of sewage a day, according to Plotts.

High levels of lead, silver, zinc and PCB were found in the treated effluent dumped in the Wicomico River, environmental officials said.

The city has until 1992 to meet the EPA standards. The cost of the clean-up is not known, Plotts said.

The federal government is providing $100 million to help fund the cleanup projects across the country.

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For years the Wicomico River has been the butt of the locals' pollution jokes. The still, black waters have produced some amazing aromas; it's not all that unusual to see dead fish bobbing along the banks. The winding river does, of course, empty into the Cheapeake Bay, an estuary that has received a good deal of national attention as needing clean up to ensure the survival of its marine life.

Environmental officials have given the city until 1992 to meet federal standards for chemical discharges. Tests indicate high levels of lead, silver, zinc and PCB were found in the treated effluent discharged into the river. Fortunately, authorities claim the the discharges don't pose any threat to the public since the water in the tested area is not used for public consumption.

Salisbury's Marine Road sewer plant was just one of 25 industrial companies and public sewage plants in Maryland cited by the Environmental Protection Agency. Public sewage plants in Annapolis, Baltimore and Hartford County also did not meet the EPA standards.

The Wicomico is a valuable resource, both for the county and the state. The city's apparent pollution of it is a serious matter that must be dealt with promptly.

THE DAILY TIMES

Edward C. White, Publisher and General Manager
Mel Toadvine, Managing Editor
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PAGE 6 Salisbury, Md., Tuesday, August 15, 1989

The Bay's New Polluters

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has released an unflattering report charging Maryland officials with being unwilling to fine municipal governments that violate regulations for dumping sewage waste water into the Chesapeake Bay. According to the EPA, state officials are tougher on private violators than on the governments that operate sewage treatment plants which dump millions of gallons of treated waste water into the bay each year.

According to the report, 20 percent of municipal plants that dump into the bay do not meet compliance standards. Those plants include municipal facilities in Salisbury, Hurlock and Cambridge. The problems in the Cambridge plant have been so severe that raw sewage has reportedly overflowed into the Choptank River and contaminated at least one oyster bed.

While state officials did threaten Cambridge with fines, the EPA report claims such action to be the exception, rather than the rule. The EPA says Maryland's enforcement record is below the national average.

The EPA guidelines for sewage pollution have never been attacked as unreasonable, yet they seem difficult to meet. A lack of state enforcement has been blamed on politics. Either way, it is unfortunate that with all the progress apparently being made in cleaning up the bay, contamination must come from sources that should set an example of a non-polluter.

EPA Cites Salisbury Plant

6/15/89

By PETER ROPER
Times Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Federal officials have listed 26 industrial and municipal plants in Maryland —including the Salisbury waste water treatment plant — that are contributing to river and lake pollution and must curb their emissions of toxic substances.

Environmental Protection Agency officials released a 44-state report this week that listed more than 600 lakes and waterways that do not meet federal clean water standards because of toxic pollutants.

In the Salisbury area, EPA officials said the waste water treatment plant is releasing toxic metals and poly-chlorinated biphenyls — PCBs — into the Lower Wicomico River.

EPA officials pointed out that in most cases, the plants had state permits to release pollutants, but said water quality has deteriorated to the point where federal officials are ordering additional clean up programs.

The data on toxic releases was compiled by state officials and the firms involved under a new federal law that requires regular disclosures of polluting emissions.

So far, only 40 percent of the 897 polluters listed by the EPA have submitted new clean up proposals for approval.

Federal officials made no estimate on the health hazard being created by the pollution and noted that clean water standards are designed to protect aquatic life in a waterway. That means particular pollution levels may not pose a threat to humans.

The list was released this week as part of the EPA policy to require states to draft anti-pollution plans that will restore safe water quality by 1992.

EPA Administrator William Reilly said the listing demonstrated the extensive knowledge about the sources of water pollution and government's ability to target the problems for cleanup.

"This is the first time we've ever been specific on the extent and the sources of our toxic problem and the strategies we need to eliminate them," he said.

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ROBERT WAGMAN

S&L Flap Puts Brady In Hot

WASHINGTON — Despite several faltering steps of late, George Bush's "honeymoon" with the press and Congress continues. But the same cannot be said for holdover Secretary of the Treasury Nicholas F. Brady.

In Washington, almost anything can be forgiven — except political ineptitude. In only the second week of the new administration, Brady

taxes on corporate dividends. Both Democrats and Republicans on the panel were openly critical of his lack of any meaningful suggestions on how to curb the Wall Street takeover mania.

Increasingly, the perception is growing that Brady — the former chairman of an old-line New York investment banking firm — is a man without much political savvy who sees his primary

row set-aside plan is sure to

court.

Fortunately, one justice has alre
to escape his colleagues' habit of com
ing. In a concurring opinion, Antonin Sca
ed in on a morally persuasive principle th
entire court would do well to adopt: "I do
agree ... (that) state and local governments ma
in some circumstances discriminate on the bas
of race in order (in a broad sense) 'to ameliorat
the effects of past discrimination.'"

He went on: "Those who believe that racial
preferences can help to 'even the score' displa
and reinforce, a manner of thinking by race tha

which it's crafted. Although, too,
ination and when the quotas bear no relationship to the available pool of minority-owned businesses.

But, no, not all racially based policies are necessarily illegal.

In other words, Richmond cannot casually set aside 30 percent of its contracts for minorities. But the city can, apparently, target an unspecified (and undoubtedly smaller) percentage of contracts for disadvantaged groups so long as it dots its "i's" and crosses its "t's" with a little fact-finding first.

How? By taking three steps. First, count the minority businesses in the community. Then doc-

THE DAILY TIMES

Edward C. White, Publisher and General Manager
Mel Toadvine, Managing Editor
Donald Brown, Advertising Manager Barbara Bradley, Classified Supervisor
Teresa Landon, Circulation Manager

PAGE 10 Salisbury, Md., Saturday, February 11, 1989

Toxic Discharges In The Wicomico

Salisbury Director of Public Works Tom Plotts had a keen observation this week on the possible environmental effects from reportedly high levels of toxic chemicals going into the Wicomico River from Salisbury's sewage treatment plant.

Plotts was quoted as saying that the unsafe chemical levels "will not have any far reaching effects, but are not to be dismissed." He added, "Some fish in the area may be affected, but if they aren't already dead then there is nothing wrong with them."

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THE DAILY TIMES

Bulldozing Along The Wicomico 1/09

Developer Defends River Project 1/15/89

River Oil Spill Cleanup Continues

3/31/89

By ROBERT STORACE
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — Maryland Environmental officials said the cleanup from Wednesday afternoon's oil spill in a branch of the Wicomico River is continuing. About 15 to 20 gallons of waste oil spilled into a storm drain near the Firestone Service Center's parking lot, officials said.

John Goheen, spokesman for the Maryland Department of the Environment, said an investigation into exactly what happened is under way.

Larry Pusey, manager of Firestone, said "a new employee was transporting oil to a transfer station outside the building, (on South Salisbury Boulevard) when he accidently knocked the container over."

Pusey said that the employee was instructed by a service manager to clean up the oil with an oil absorbent, but instead accidentally used an oil cleaner which dispersed the oil to more areas.

"Firestone has been officially cited", Goheen said, "and they must clean up the spill to our satisfaction."

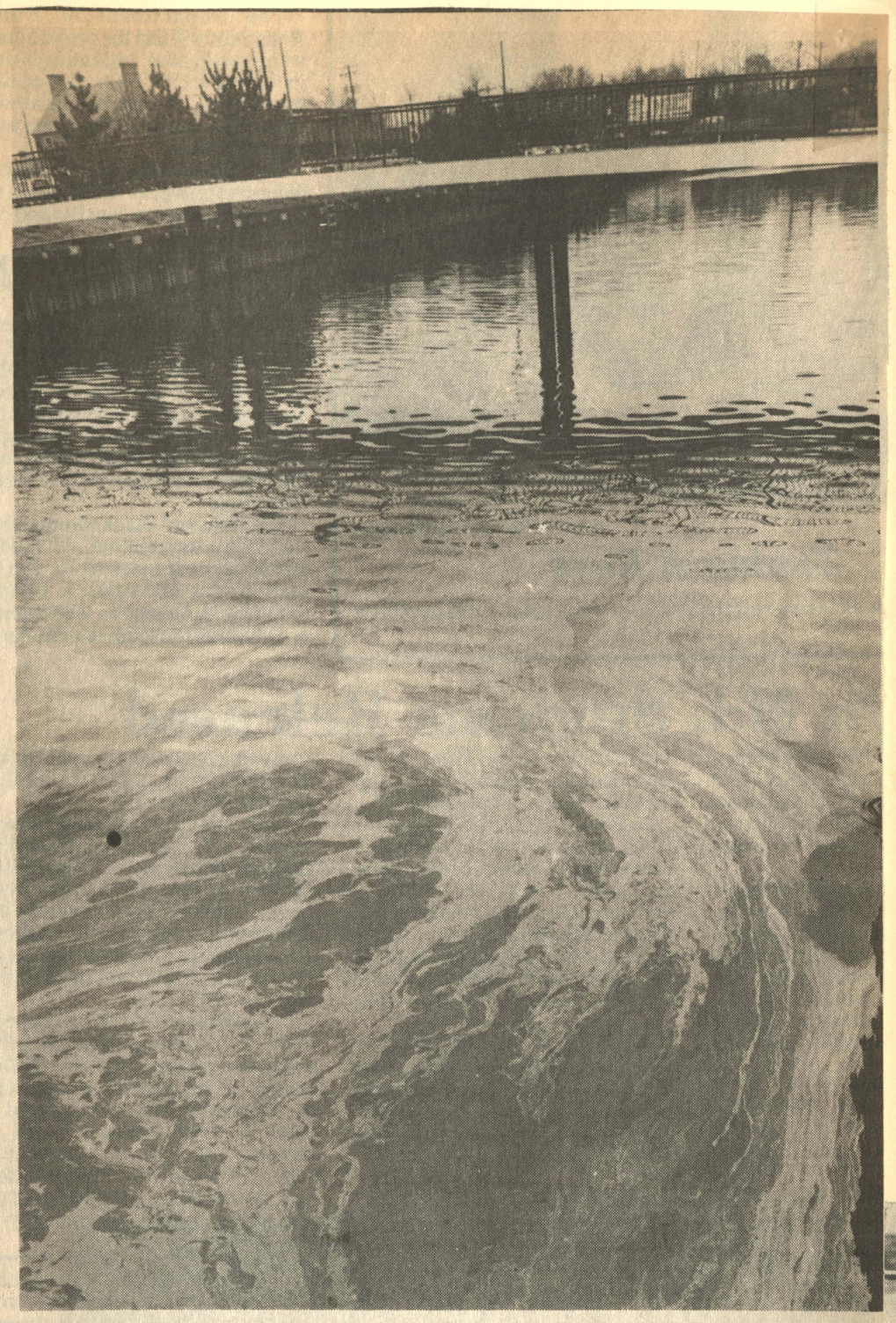
Goheen said he informed Firestone that a letter of explanation as to what happened is expected by April 5.

At that time, Goheen said, "our office will determine whether any violation fees will be brought against Firestone." Goheen said the company can be fined up to $1000 per violation.

Firestone contracted with Steam Kat Corp., a hazardous waste management company, at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday to clean up the spill.

Andrew Phillips, Steam Kat president, said the company summoned three workers to the river to start the cleanup right away.

Sgt. William Burke of the National Resources Police said he has an officer who has been checking "periodically" on the clean up "to make sure the work is being done properly." The cleanup, Phillips said, should be completed today.



Times Photo by Karen Sweeney

OIL SPILL. Residue oil floats in a branch of the Wicomico River near the Sheraton In Salisbury Thursday.

Oil and dead fish were also visible Thursday from the river's surface at the east branch near the intersection of Carroll Street and Waverly Drive. A containment boom, Phillips said, is being used to pick up the oil which is sticking to the debris in the river.

Salisbury Executive Officer Patrick Fennell said "this is an unfortunate minor incident which the city does not want repeated."

Salisbury Mayor W. Paul Martin said Thursday that he thought local agencies "acted quickly and professionally."

Council Closes Street For Construction 4/25/89

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council voted Monday to approve the closing a portion of Old Water Street to clear the way for the construction of a state office building.

The property on the northerly side of Old Water Street, known as the Lydia Phillips' lots, will be turned over to the state for the proposed multi-service building.

The street closing ordinance was approved unanimously on second reading by the council. No residents spoke for or against the plan.

Church Asks Council To Close Street

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council said Monday it favored a plan to close a portion of Edison Street in order to clear the way for the expansion of the Parkway Church of God.

The trustees for the church, Harry W. Dunn, Eldred H. Long and Elwood J. Trader, petitioned the council to have the street closed in order to expand the existing church building.

The council said it favored the plan, but an ordinance must be advertised before a final vote is taken.

The church owns the adjacent property and plans to expand the building from 325 to 1,050 seats, according to one church official.

No vote was taken by the council. A first and secong reading of the ordinance is expected to be discussed at the May meetings.

Schumaker Drive Annexation OK'd 3/1/89

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved the annexation of a 36,000-square-foot lot on North Schumaker Drive.

The single lot is located southeast of the city across from the Schumaker Woods subdivision. It is owned by Vaughn Lewis, who recently constructed a house at the site.

Times Photo by Joey Gardner

OIL SPILL. Environmental Sanitarian John Rafter of the Salisbury Health Department takes a sample of what authorities believe to be waste oil from a drainpipe in the east branch of the Wicomico River. Officials said the oil came from the Firestone Service Center in Salisbury.

Waste Oil Spilled In River

3/30/89

By LIZ HOLLAND
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — Waste motor oil that leaked into the Wicomico River through a storm drain Wednesday has been traced to the Firestone Service Center, according to John Goheen, a spokesman for the Industrial Point Source Division, Waste Management Administration.

Firestone has contracted with Steam Kat Corp. to clean up the spill which is expected to be completed today, Goheen said.

About 15 to 20 gallons of the substance spilled into a storm drain near Firestone's parking lot. Goheen said an investigation is continuing.

The oil was discovered floating on the surface of the river's east branch near the intersection of Carroll Street and Waverly Drive about 3 p.m. and was reported to the Salisbury Fire Department, according to a Natural Resources Police spokesman.

By 7:30 p.m., workers had contained the oil with floating devices. Goheen said today's rain will break up the oil and speed up the natural cleansing process of the river.

The fire department, Maryland Department of the Environment, the state Natural Resources Police and Salisbury Department of Public Works assisted in the investigation and containment efforts.

THE DAILY TIMES
Mel Toadvine, Managing Editor
Greg Bassett, Editorial Page Editor

Salisbury's Ambitious Plan

Seldom in government do plans that promise to do so much have a chance of working. Salisbury's rough draft for the revitalization of the Westside, however, is the exception to that rule — it shows great promise of achieving success.

The long-range plan, presented to the city council this week, is a concept of several alternatives for the future redevelopment of the troubled area around the Westside. The city marina would serve as the hub of a vibrant business district and residential area. The plan could be considered the turning point in the frustrating process of revitalizing the city's prime waterfront area.

An ambitious plan, it calls for the mixed construction of commercial and residential units along with the preservation of the waterfront for public use. The plan also calls for direct citizen involvement in neighborhood clean up, paint and fix-up projects in residential areas. The city is expected to work with non-profit groups to design attractive and affordable low-income housing on the Westside.

As Councilwoman Gertrude Shockley said, the plan "is the beginning of helping Salisbury grow as one. We can't forget other areas of the city, but hopefully everyone will get behind this project and make it work." Making the Westside better needs to be a priority for all city residents. The city has developed an excellent plan, now it's up to the citizens to make it work.

Times Photo by Karen Sweeney

SALISBURY MARINA. The Port of Salisbury Marina will be expanded to include the area now occupied by the G&K Furniture Store on West Main Street. A series of legal actions have complicated the $40 million waterfront renewal effort.

3/12/89

Waterfront Renewal

No Smooth Sailing For $40 Million Salisbury Project

"Work on the downtown marina has gotten into full swing this week with the demolition of an abandoned building along West Main Street. The project's first phase is expected to take 6½ months to complete."

The Daily Times
January 1985

By PAUL DAVIES
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — More than four years have passed since the city's ambitious $40 million waterfront renewal project began with great anticipation.

A lot has happened in that time, but little in the way of construction.

The story line on the waterfront is a complicated one that went from hope and glory in 1985, to lawsuits and counter lawsuits in 1986, to a quiet $515,000 settlement completed last week.

What went wrong with the waterfront project? How did the city get caught in such a legal battle? Where does the city go from here?

The waterfront area along the west side deteriorated over the years. A few industrial factories and barges were all that remained.

A federal renewal program put the property — bounded to the north by West Main Street, to the east by Mill Street, to the south and west by the Wicomico River — back on the map.

The city saw how successful other area waterfront projects were and wanted to do the same. The Salisbury waterfront is modeled along the small scale lines of Baltimore's Inner Harbor, city officials said.

"The city never used the port to

See MARINA, page 3

INA

om page 1

natural beauty. reserved for in- solicitor Robert

a hungry devel- federal grant a renewal was ontract with the uired before the the grant money rchase the land,

, the city con- ntown Salisbury ip to develop all ned to purchase ico River. The city began acquiring some of the prime parcels it wanted to develop.

In a November 20, 1986 letter, Mayor W. Paul Martin notified DSLP it was ready for them to begin building.

DSLP balked. The Baltimore-based group said the city did not complete the agreed-upon clearing and grading of the site.

By April 1987, the city filed a $1 million negligence lawsuit against DSLP. A $500,000 counter-suit was filed against the city by DSLP.

All of which added up to lost time and money. The twisted legal dispute was not settled until last Thursday.

THE OUT-OF-COURT settlement closed a chapter in the waterfront project that has been a thorn in the city's side for close to two years.

The two parties agreed to drop their suits and terminate the development contract. All for a price of course.

The city agreed to pay DSLP $515,000 in cash. In return, DSLP gave the city the title to the G&K Building and several of the development studies.

The settlement clears the way for a second go at a waterfront project the city has talked about for over a decade.

Many credit Martin for keeping the project's hopes alive during the turmoil. The mayor was out of town last week and could not be reached for comment.

The plan still is to build residential and commercial space along the waterfront. Also included was a public marina, landscaped open space and riverfront boat access that would revitalize the waterfront and make the city viable for years to come.

An update to the waterfront development plan is expected to be presented at the city council meeting on Monday.

A 1979 task force, named the Regional Urban Design Assistance Team, was put together to study the idea. The April 1985 contract between the city and DSLP was expected to mark the start of actual construction.

The recent settlement is expected to rekindle efforts for a waterfront renewal.

"We still have to develop the area, but this time the city is not locked into a very oppressive agreement," Eaton said.

THE NEW PLAN is expected to be divided among several developers and not pinned to one builder, according to city executive officer Patrick J. Fennell.

"In the event we get one bad apple the project will not come to a stop like last time," Fennell said.

The Salisbury City Council voted, 4-1, to approve the settlement at a Feb. 13 meeting.

Although some considere the price of the agreement to be high, others are just glad it is over.

"Generally we are pleased because we would have been tied into appeals for years to come," Eaton said.

Others chalk the event up to experience.

"I feel the city staff learned a lot about downtown development through this experience and we don't intend to make the same mistake again," Fennell said.

Bulldozing Along The Wicomico

Developer Defends River Project 11/5/89

THE DAILY TIMES

Times Photo by Karen Sween

MARINA REDEVELOPMENT. Herman Stevens, redevelopment coordinator for the city of Salisbury, stands on the site of the former Tilghm Fertilizer Co. which will be razed and then developed as part of the Port of Salisbury Marina.

10/89

Stevens Has Salisbury Marina Project Flying High

By PAUL DAVIES
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — Herman Stevens is sitting in his modest second floor office on East Main Street when the phone rings. It's a man from New Jersey interested in a development project around the Salisbury marina. He read an add in *The Wall Street Journal* and wants more information.

"The city has several prime parcels of land it is interested in selling off for a mixture of housing, office and retail development," Stevens explains. "The area has a lot of potential, it's on the water, the mayor and city council are behind the project 100 percent, and it has a chance to be smaller version of the Inner Harbor in Baltimore."

After several minutes, Stevens tells the man he is sending an information package for him to review. Then Stevens invites him to Salisbury for lunch and a visit.

"Better yet, where is the closest airfield?," he says. "I'll fly my plane to New Jersey and meet with you."

"If I talk to enough people and bang on enough doors, I'll find someone who wants to come here and invest some money."

STEVENS IS ON a roll now. The retired Cambridge newspaper man knows how to pro-

mote a product. He has the New Jersey man's interest. The project sounds good. The man says he will be down next week, but he prefers to drive.

"It's like being a salesmen," Stevens says after he hangs up. "If I talk to enough people and bang on enough doors, I'll find someone who wants to come here and invest some money."

Stevens has been at the job of city redevelopment coordinator for a month. He's already been calling area developers, meeting with local civic groups and talking with whoever will listen. The newly created position is the city's latest effort to revitalize the West Side and, specifically, the waterfront.

A long time friend of Mayor W. Paul Martin, Stevens served as the chairman of a volunteer committee during the Cambridge waterfront project. Stevens plays down his involvement in Cambridge, but Martin says he was the driving force behind its success.

He retired as publisher of *The Daily Banner* in 1983, started a weekly newspaper in Kent Island, dabbled in real estate for a while, started a radio station in Hurlock, then moved to Florida with his wife.

STEVENS SAYS RETIREMENT is not for him. He likes a challenge. His favorite hobby is flying his single-engine Piper airplane, which he uses to meet clients if needed.

Martin says the city is "very fortunate" to have Stevens.

"Herman is a good man, he has a lot of contacts, he's very energetic and can get the job done," Martin says.

The city council approved the position on annual basis at a salary of $25,000. Stevens says if he doesn't produce he will be gone, but quickly adds he's confident he will "show them something."

"I am the kind of person who likes to see

See MARINA, page A12

velopment block grant program. The money is used for the redevelopment of blighted areas.

The proposed bulkhead project is expected to enhance the city's ability to market the property for private development. The property is part of an urban renewal project aimed to revitalize the west side.

Industries of Salisbury was awarded the contract to demolish the Tilghman Fertilizer building next to the Port of Salisbury Marina downtown.

The job must be completed in four months, and will cost $65,000.

existing zoning, William C. Livingston, planning director, said.

Some residents questioned what is planned for the site. Hafez said it would be residential construction of either apartments or townhouses.

Times Photo by Joey Gardner

Cleaning up

10/29/89

Some 25 to 30 members of the Rockawalkin Ruritan Club spent most of Saturday cleaning up the debris at the old Tilghman Fertilizer Co. on Pitchwater Road in Salisbury. The community service organization took on the project in conjunction with Gov. William Donald Schaefer's Community Service Week.

Ruritan club lauded for cleanup effort

11/14/89

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday night gave a certificate of appreciation to members of the Rockawalkin Ruritan Club for their volunteer clean up of the Tilghman Fertilizer facility.

It took 31 people nearly 214 hours to remove 42 dump truck loads of trash from the site.

Bulldozing Along The Wicomico

Developer Defends River Project 1/15/89

THE DAILY TIMES

Dyson Holds First Of 3 Town Meetings On Shore

THE DA
Founded in 1886 as
The Daily and Sunday Times (USPS 1565-40
by The Daily Times, Inc., P.O. Box 1937, Sa

11 Arrested In Vienna Raid

VIENNA — Eleven people were arrested here Friday night following a yearlong investigation which netted more than 17 grams of crack cocaine and a small amount of marijuana, according to Maryland State Police.

There are still 14 outstanding warrants for arrests in connection with this investigation, police said.

Conducted by state police, the Dorchester County Sheriff's Department, Wicomico County Narcotics Task Force, Worcester County Narcotics Task Force and Natural Resources Police, about 60 police officers and three K-9 units were involved in the 7:30 p.m. raid of several homes on Back Street near Old Route 50 here.

Arrested on charges of possession of crack cocaine with intent to distribute were: Maurice Butler, 27, of Cambridge; James William Turner, 27, of Vienna; Ricky Harold Walter, 26, of Vienna; Richard Anthony Smith, 27, of Hurlock; Roderick Dinal Wongus, 27, of Rhodesdale; Antonio W.J. Smith, 23, of Preston; Percy Jones, 18, of Vienna; and Waverly N. Jones, 29, of Vienna, according to Maryland State Police. All were being held in the Dorchester County Jail on bonds ranging from $30,000 to $1,000, police said.

Also arrested was Reginald Sylvester Parkee, 28, of Federalsburg, who was charged with violation of probation, police said. He was being held on $500 bond.

Arrested on charges of possession of drugs were Robert Lee Fort, 31, of Marydela Springs, and Toni Felicia Beulah, 23, of Federalsburg. Both were released on their own recognizance, police said.

Little Crustacean Winners

Miss Crustacean 1989 Adrian N. Walter, 6, and Little Mr. Crustacean 1989 Guy "Bunky" Sterling III, 6, were crowned Friday at a pageant in Crisfield. Adrian is the daughter of Billy and Patty Justice and Bunky is the son of Guy and Vicky Sterling, all of Crisfield. Both will take part in the festivities at next weekend's National Hard Crab Derby & Fair. Other finalists in the Little Miss pageant were: Jennifer Monk, first runner-up; Lindi Morgan, second runner-up; and Angel Linton, third runner-up. Finalists in the Little Mr. pageant were: Jesus Evangelista III, first runner-up; Donald Wharton Jr., second runner-up; and Richard Gunter Jr., third runner-up.

Times Photo by Liz Holland

Demolition Funds To Be Sought 7/25/89

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council approved an application Monday of $70,000 in state funds to demolish the Tilghman Fertilizer buildings and clear the property for development.

The application is part of a state-sponsored community development block grant for the redevelopment of blighted areas.

The city is in the process of purchasing and clearing surrounding properties on the west side in order to expand the marina.

Bulkheading Funds Eyed For Marina

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council approved an application Monday of $255,000 in state funds to bulkhead the G&K Warehouse property as part of the redevelopment of the marina area.

The state application is for funds from the community development block grant program. The money is used for the redevelopment of blighted areas.

The proposed bulkhead project is expected to enhance the city's ability to market the property for private development. The property is part of an urban renewal project aimed to revitalize the west side.

Paddleboat Rental OK'd 6/27/89

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council approved a plan Monday to permit the private rental of paddleboats on Mitchell Pond.

The paddleboat operation will be owned Mark Reeves and will be similar to the boats for rent in the city park.

The city is expected to charge Reeves $100 for the first year use of the pond. The fee may be adjusted after the first year depending on how well the business does.

The details and insurance agreement are expected to be worked out among the public works office and the city solicitor.

Salisbury 1/14/89

Tilghman demolition contract awarded

SALISBURY — Modern Industries of Salisbury was awarded the contract to demolish the Tilghman Fertilizer building next to the Port of Salisbury Marina downtown.

The job must be completed in four months, and will cost $65,000.

Annexation Is Approved 6/27/89

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council approved the annexation Monday of two parcels of land on Dykes Road and May Drive for the proposed construction of single-family homes.

The 10-acre parcel on May Drive and a 25,000-square-foot parcel on Dykes Road are owned by Jim Barnes. The property will be zoned R-10 residential.

No plan for the number of houses was presented. No one spoke for or against the plan.

Honeysuckle Drive Annexation OK'd

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council approved the annexation Monday of a small parcel off Route 13 and Honeysuckle Drive.

The .7-acre parcel, owned by Youssef Hafez, is zoned R-15 residential in the county and will be zoned college/university in the city.

The new zoning is similar to the existing zoning, William C. Livingston, planning director, said.

Some residents questioned what is planned for the site. Hafez said it would be residential construction of either apartments or townhouses.

WICOMICO

Downtown Building Has Ongoing Role In Salisbury History

By RICHARD W. COOPER
Special To The Times

SALISBURY — In the ongoing story about the City of Salisbury and proposed improvements on the waterfront and West Main Street area, references are repeatedly made to the brick building on the corner of Mill Street and West Main Street as being the "G&K Building." The more descriptive and proper title for this old landmark would be the "Turner Brothers Building," inasmuch as the Turner family of Salisbury had been closely associated with the building of the structure along with the operation of a well-known wholesale grocery company for almost half a century.

It was built in 1905, long before the days of modern supermarkets.

At the turn of the century, there were hundreds of neighborhood and crossroads grocery stores scattered around the countryside.

Each was dependent on a wholesale dealer for the supply of the many items carried on their shelves — virtually everything from patent medicines to shotgun shells. Salisbury's strategic location on the river as well as the junction of two main line railroad systems made it a natural for the location of large warehouses where items in bulk could be received and then distributed to the small outlets.

In 1905 there were several large dealers such as W.E. Sheppard & Co., T.L. Ruark & Co. and Turner Brothers, naming but a few.

THE FORTRESS-like structure, standing in stark and solid dignity, took form when the Turner Brothers company was incorporated by a group of men described at the time as "natives of Salisbury, prominent capitalists and businessmen of the

TWO VIEWS. At left is the Turner Brothers wholesale grocery warehouse on the Wicomico River near the Route 50 and Riverside Drive corridor. Above, the building is shown as it is today.

community ..." The late Ernest C. Turner was the general manager, and W. Pitt Turner secretary-treasurer. The building itself was described as having a floor space of 15,000 square feet, and it must have been built to last, because there is no indication of any settlement or cracking of the walls in spite of the fact that it was built on the edge of the river where the ground was expected to be very unstable.

An article published in 1908 states that "... the building is filled to overflowing always with the purest, freshest and best stock of groceries that it is possible to obtain ..."

Since the automobile and truck had not made any significant entry on the local scene at that time, the provisions for the horses were mentioned, as follows: "In the rear there is a great four-story brick building for feed, well equipped with power elevators ..." Goods transported by water were unloaded directly from boats tied up at the back, where an overhead entry can still be seen, with a winch and pulley arrangement.

I REMEMBER well this establishment back in the 1920s when I was going to school up on Chestnut Street at the grammar school. The father of a classmate was a clerk at Turner Brothers, and we would stop by on our way home and wander through the stacks of sugar, flour, crates of salt fish, barrels of molasses and vinegar.

I can still remember the pungent odors of the mixture of spices, hay, peanuts and dried peaches. What a display of goods when compared to the more familiar neighborhood stores that were scattered all over town.

Up until the early forties there was six small grocery stores in a radius of a couple of blocks on Newton, Smith, Vine and Locust streets where I grew up.

From the wholesale stores in Salisbury, traveling salesmen, known then as "drummers," covered the lower Eastern Shore and Sussex County in Delaware. The above-mentioned article stated that "... there is not a town on the lower Eastern Shore where it does not have customers ..." Each wholesalers store had some specialty that it was best known for. T.L. Ruark had their own coffee mixture called "Mo-Sam." W.E. Sheppard had its "Sheppard's Best Flour," made from the finest selected Western wheat. The connoisseurs of our local Maryland Biscuits swore by one of the special brands of flour which was the main ingredient for this very local product.

AT THE TIME of the retirement of the Turners from the business, the wholesale operations had been gradually taken over by the expanding A&P and Acme stores, where everything was highly promoted and all transactions were "cash and carry" an unheard of thing in the cash-poor days when every grocer carried their customers on a line of credit.'

The Turner family sold their property to the Delmarva Hardware Company which operated there until the city and state revamped the inner city with the Route 50-Mill Street corridors. Later on the furniture company operated by the Givarz and Kravitz families took over the building and it was then that it began to be known as the "G&K Furniture Warehouse."

A display of their name on one exterior wall has given the building its present identity, although its roots go back many, many years to the original Turners.

The structure had always had a special significance to me a surveyor and a historian because it is located on the site where it is believed that the original "Handy's Landing" existed.

Handy's Landing was the original name of Salisbury prior to 1732. Also across the now-lost alley that separated this building from the Old Farmers & Planters building was located the original first boundary marker for the town. It was also the starting point for "Pemberton's Good Will," the patent from which Salisbury was devised.

Richard W. Cooper is a local historian and retired land surveyor in Wicomico County. He is a contributor of historical pieces to The Times. He is also the author of Profile of a Colonial Community.

Building restoration dedicated to authenticity

On the premise that "they don't build 'm like they used to, so it's worth saving" a three-story relic of the last century at Main and Mill streets and the Wicomico River is getting a complete facelift.

In addition, this brick structure which is at least 107 years old, is in the very heart of an earlier commercial district. It is dedicated to authenticity to the point where bricks salvaged from repointing are going right back into the building.

The owners are Terry Sell, who is in the rental property business; Tom Becker and Ron Morgan, architects, and Tom Fisher who is in the agrichemical business. A builder's cornerstone, curiously located on the second floor, carries the legend "H T 1883." Below that is a second date, 1886, the year of the great fire in Salisbury.

Scratch Pad

Dick Moore

Unquestionably, this building with brick walls up to 24 inches thick, and massive timbers of pine, oak and fir, is worth saving, not only as a relic of earlier days in salisbury but as an example of pre-20th century construction. It is one of Salisbury's oldest buildings.

The Whayland Co. is doing the work. Don Whayland, vice president, estimates the cost will exceed a million dollars. New windows have been ordered to match as nearly as possible the heavy Victorian motif of the originals.

A lightweight concrete surface has been poured onto the aged flooring — a modern touch. Supporting posts and beams, some as big as 12 by 12 inches, have been stripped of old paint and will be refinished in a natural state.

Sell, who some years ago tastefully restored a small brick shoe repair shop just across the street, said, "I used to sit here and look at it. I decided I wanted to restore it." But costs were prohibitive until the other partners came along to share the expense.

They bought the property from the city for $120,000 at auction, with the city agreeing to do some badly needed bulkheading on the riverfront. Built on piling deep in the Wicomico River mud, it is a tribute to the skills of earlier builders. There are but few cracks from settling, Whayland said, and "there's very little rot."

Details for the interior work are still being worked out. Sell will take the first floor, Fisher the second, and Becker-Morgan, the architects, will be on the third. The view downriver from there is on the breathtaking side.

Morgan said much attention is being given to creating the effect of a warehouse, with interior brick walls and the massive beams which support it all. When it's finished the partners will form a condominium association, thus adding a modern twist. Each of the partners will own a floor.

Modern engineering and materials have replaced the brute strength of earlier structures, built to last by men with only hand tools who worked a 10-hour day for as little as 10 cents an hour.

This riverfront location was once alive with commerce. Schooners unloaded lumber and other goods. Steamboats to Baltimore docked just across the river.

An ancient street through the building has been uncovered, first a bed of oyster shells and later topped with brick.

In recent years it had been known as the G&K Warehouse. Preservationists have been setting up a howl for restoration, but it remained for partners with vision and a flair for the past to finance it.

A principal business was the Turner Brothers wholesale grocery. The Turner Hardware Co. also shared the building. Richard Turner, Salisbury engineer and historian, recall the "delicatessen" and tobacco and peanuts," which emanated there.

The "H T" on the cornerstone refers to the firm of Humphrey and Tilghman, which was in the lumber and fertilizer business. Tilghman later moved downriver, and those facilities have been demolished in the grand plan for Salisbury's west side.

The 1886 date indicates the original building may have been damaged in the great fire and so was rebuilt on the shell of the original. Over the years, several sections and levels have been added.

A patio to the river's edge will add a touch of modernization to a piece of early downtown as it was more than a century ago.

Photo by Dick Moore

OLD BUILDING REVIVED. Exterior brick Main and Mill streets in Salisbury gets an extensive facelift.

G&K plans OK'd

5/18/90

By CATHY COLLIER
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — Plans for the renovation of the G&K Warehouse, which received final approval from the Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission Thursday, are what some commission members hope will be the catalyst the city needs for further development on the West Side.

"I think this will be a tremendous first project for the West Side," Planning Director William C. Livingston said.

The 1867 three-story brick structure is being renovated by a group of local business partners, which includes architects Thomas Becker and Ronald Morgan, rental property owner Terry Sell, and Thomas Fisher of ConAgra.

The partners plan to renovate the 21,000-square-foot structure for office and/or retail use, and possibly a restaurant at a future date. The land adjacent to the building will be redeveloped into a landscaped plaza and service access area.

"At first I wasn't in favor of it. I wanted to tear it down," commission member and City Councilman S. Norman Holland Jr. said. "But then they (the partners) came up with a beautiful plan. When you take a million dollars and put it in a building, that gets the ball rolling."

Each of the partners plan to use some of the space for their own businesses, and Holland said Fisher is bringing the headquarters of ConAgra to Salisbury.

The city will be installing bulkheading along the Wicomico River and a new river walk next to the water. All of the property required for the river walk and bulkheading will be deeded to the city.

Parking for the building will be across West Main Street in a parking lot owned by Terry Sell. Additional parking is being provided by the city on the west side of the river near the Fields building.

Holland said he also originally wanted to tear down the Fields building, but recent proposals by local and out-of-town developers have convinced him it is worth saving.

"I said tear that down, and now I'm changing my mind on that too."

Since the G&K Warehouse is within a historic district, the Historic District Commission will need to give the plans a final stamp of approval when it meets Wednesday.

CONNECTION •
$20.99

Henson to finance building renovation

By CHARLIE MUTH
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — The Greater Salisbury Committee and several other community organizations will no longer have to worry about rent because Maryland National Bank has given the groups its former building on the Downtown Plaza here.

Richard A. Henson, of the Richard A. Henson Foundation, announced Tuesday night his organization will pay to renovate the building.

Henson

During a hard hat reception at the building, Henson said the building will cost about $200,000 to renovate. However, he said the cost will be worthwhile in the long run since the organizations will be guaranteed permanent, rent-free office space.

The groups that will have office space in the building will be the Greater Salisbury Committee, the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, the Delmarva Water Transport Committee, Junior Achievement of the Eastern Shore and the Richard A. Henson Charitable Foundation.

With the help of several contractors who have promised to donate some of their time, Henson said he expects the renovations to be finished by December.

"We've got a lot of community support here," he said. "And by pulling together we've been able to pull this whole thing off."

The Greater Salisbury Committee has been looking for property for the past couple of years to bring all of the organizations under one roof.

"If Maryland National Bank hadn't donated this building we would be spending about $500,000 instead of $200,000," Henson said. "And we couldn't be more pleased with the downtown location."

Times Photo by Joey Gardner

DONATED. The old Maryland National Bank Building on the Salisbury Downtown Plaza was recently donated to the Greater Salisbury Committee and several other organizations. Richard A. Henson has agreed to renovate the building.

7/25/90

Times Photo by Joey Gardner

Ground breaking

6/23/90

Salisbury City Council President Robin Cockey, left, and Salisbury Mayor W. Paul Martin throw shovels of dirt during ground breaking ceremonies held Friday at the Port Exchange Building on West Main Street. The 100-year-old building, formerly the G&K warehouse owned by the city, has been purchased and will be renovated by the Joint Venture Partnership group. The new developers plan to complete construction of the building with their first tenant occupancy this fall and completion of the entire project by early 1991.

PUBLIC NOTICE
CONTRACT NO. 103-90R-P
SURPLUS PROPERTY

The Salisbury City Council on May 8, 1989 declared the following property surplus, owned by the City and located within the City limits with all City services available.

Parcel No. 1 - The land is situated between Mill Street and the Wicomico River, with 87.54 foot frontage on Mill Street and 94.24 foot frontage on West Main Street, with 146.30 foot frontage on the Wicomico River East Prong. This property is improved with a large existing brick structure building, which has two (2) existing inoperable freight elevators. This property can also be served with all city services.

Said land is declared surplus and is offered for sale in accordance with terms set forth in Article XVI of Salisbury Charter, and Ordinance 1463 approving a plan for the disposition of surplus City owned land as described above, as being Parcel No. 1. In accordance with the Plan, City council will enter into a Contract conveying said land in acordance with Ordinance No. 1463 as stated in Parcel No. 1 and any other requirements as stated.

Bidding documents, including a copy of Salisbury's Surplus Land Disposition Plan, may be secured for the sum of ten dollars ($10.00) at the Office of the City Purchasing Department Room 305, Government Office Building, located at 125 North Division Street, corner of West Church Street and North Division, or by calling (301)548-3190, ask for Mr. Todd from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mailing address is Government Office Building, City of Salisbury, P.O. Box 4118, Salisbury, Maryland 21801.

The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any irregularities, and to negotiate with the bidder so that the award can be made in the best interest of the City. No contract to sell, lease, or otherwise transfer ownership or control of said property shall be executed by the City Council until complete compliance with Charter of the City of Salisbury, Section 16-4 and Ordinance 1463.

Sealed proposals will be accepted in the Office of the Purchasing Department until 10:00 a.m., Monday, September 11, 1989.

rw8/9

THE DAILY TIMES
Edward C. White, Publisher and General Manager
Mel Toadvine, Managing Editor
Greg Bassett, Editorial Page Editor

New life for an old warehouse

Sometimes buildings are historic, and other times they're just old. The old G&K Warehouse, located on Mill Street along the Wicomico River, is a reminder of the city's bay-going past and a structure of significant architectual character. To see it destroyed, even in the name of progress, would be both a shame and a mistake.

Fortunately, it appears the warehouse has a bright future. A joint partnership of architect Thomas M. Becker, developer Terry Sell, and ConAgra Inc. will purchase the city-owned building for $120,000. Called the Port Exchange Joint Venture Partnership, the group plans to spend more than $1 million to renovate the 16,800-square-foot three-story building.

While some opposed the sale of the building, saying it should instead be torn down for the creation of a park area, others see the warehouse as an important link to the city's West Side and Downtown Salisbury. Converting the site into an office complex, which would be called the Port Exchange Building, is a good step toward developing the city's West Side and keeping the city marina project moving forward.

Renovation of the building allows the city to have its cake and eat it too. A historic landmark is saved, the marina area gains a valuable neighbor, the city increases its property tax roll and piece of the past is made good again.

Group offers $120,000 for G&K site

11/89

City delays decision on bid

By PAUL DAVIES
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — Two Salisbury businessmen have offered to purchase the G&K Warehouse for $120,000 from the city and turn it into office space.

The Salisbury City Council reviewed the offer Monday but said an agreement would have to be reached on a parking plan before it would accept the bid.

If approved, the renovation would be a first step in the city's longtime struggle to get the West Side, and in particular, the Salisbury marina developed.

Thomas M. Becker, of Becker-Morgan Architects, and Terry Sell, of GNI Investments, plan to spend more than $1 million to renovate the vacant three-story building. ConAgra Inc. is also a partner in the project. The group plans to name the site the Port Exchange Building.

The three partners plan to locate their offices at the site and lease the additional space to other companies. The 16,800-square-foot building, located off Mill and West Main streets, is considered one of five key city-owned parcels that will be sold for development.

The city was concerned about a clause in the bid asking for additional parking in the area. Mayor W. Paul Martin said he favored the project, but did not want the city to get locked into providing parking for a particular business.

Becker said Sell owned enough area parking for the workers at the G&K site, but a commitment to parking for additional projects was needed from the city.

The parking would be for the public. A parking plan is needed to show other investors that there is room for more projects, he said.

Most of the council members seemed in favor of the plan, but Councilman Donald C. Davis said the marina redevelopment efforts would benefit more if the G&K Warehouse was demolished.

Renovating the old warehouse is not the best use for the site, he said. Pedestrian access, parking and lack of view were the reasons Davis opposed the plan.

"The building serves as a three-story wall, which obstructs the view of the river," he said. "I don't think 20 years from now we will consider saving the G&K building as a good idea."

Becker said leveling the building would only provide more "no man's land" around the West Side. "How many more $1 million projects are you going to get to turn down," he said.

Becker said it would be difficult to get a new building to meet the set-back requirements. At the same time, the city would benefit from the tax base if the site were in use.

Council President Robin R. Cockey said the city paid too much for the site "just to provide a view for motorists speeding past on their way to Ocean City."

Cockey said the site "is strategic" and called it the city's "Normandy Beach."

Some council members said the bid was low. The council did not vote on the proposed bid. The bid was the only one the city received. Becker is expected to meet with city officials to work out an agreement on parking and return to the Oct. 9 meeting.

City accepts bid for G&K

10/10/89

By PAUL DAVIES
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council voted 4-1 Monday night to approve the sale of the G&K Warehouse to a local group, which plans to renovate the waterfront building for office space.

A joint partnership of Thomas M. Becker, of Becker-Morgan Architects, Terry Sell, of GNI Investments, and ConAgra Inc., plan to purchase the building for $120,000. The group, known as Port Exchange Joint Venture Partnership, plans to spend more than $1 million to renovate the three-story building.

COUNCILMAN DONALD C. Davis, who voted against accepting the developer's bid, said the city would be better served if the building were torn down and made into a park.

Davis was concerned about parking and access to the site if it were developed. He also said the city should have the building appraised before it sells it to the first bidder.

Mayor W. Paul Martin voiced strong support for the development of the site as proposed by the partnership. Martin said although the city only received one bid, the plan was a favorable one and the city needed to begin moving ahead with its plan to develop the West Side.

The 16,800-square-foot building, located off Mill and West Main streets, is considered a key parcel in the redevelopment of the Port of Salisbury Marina.

Council President Robin S. Cockey and Councilman S. Norman Holland Jr. also voiced support for the plan. Cockey said the site is the link to the West Side and Downtown Salisbury.

The city plans to provide 50 public parking spaces near the site, along with some bulkhead and riverwalk work. The council delayed accepting the bid last month until an agreement could be reached on the parking issue. A contract and details on the development of the site still have to be approved by the council.

The city has received about $300,000 in state grant money to do the bulkhead work along the G&K site. Martin said the grant was contingent on the property being developed.

Who Owned One Plaza East, Chantry House?

Life In The Country
by
Edna Davy Muir
(As told to Brice Stump)

In last week's column I wrote about the attempt by Dr. Edward Tull's sister, Louise Tull Baker and half-brother, Robert Jones, to break Dr. Tull's will.

Of course the charges they made were without merit, but after all these years I think I may have found out why they were at least motivated to do what they did.

In the news reports about the case in the *Marylander And Herald,* I came across the following bit of information.

"It has also developed during the past week that Dr. Tull was formulating some changes in his will, and it is believed that had he lived a short while longer, he would have made some changes in the paper which was found in his safety deposit box in the Peoples Bank of Somerset County and later offered for probate.

"This conclusion is reached by reports gathered from people close to Dr. Tull, and who came in daily contact with him. They state that he was lately oppressed with the idea that he was going to die soon, no doubt brought to the forefront of his mind by the sudden death recently of Dr. Reese, a very intimate friend of Dr. Tull's.

"In many conversations from time to time with these friends, Dr. Tull discussed seriously what disposition he would make of his vast estate, and in one instance he practically made an appointment with a lawyer of Salisbury to arrange some changes in his will.

"Almost the last words uttered by Dr. Tull before he died was a request that Hooper S. Miles, lawyer, of Salisbury, be sent for immediately, and this request it is stated, was made after Dr. Tull realized he was going to die. Mr. Miles was hurriedly sent for but did not arrive before the doctor's death.

"This death bed request is construed to mean only that Dr. Tull wished to make some changes in his will before he died, but death overtook him before he could make his wishes known."

Someone mentioned to me that this whole story may be of limited interest to this newspaper's readers. But there is more to this story than just the breaking of a will. Dr. Tull was the richest farmer in Somerset County, known throughout the farming community in several states for his exceptional herds of livestock. He was a nationally famous surgeon, and his lifestyle made him a legend in his own time.

Locally he owned the famous Wicomico County landmarks including the Wicomico Hotel, now One Plaza East, and the very popular Blue Bird Tea Room, better known as the Chantry House.

He pioneered efficient use of agriculture land in this area, and hired hundreds of workmen over the years to work on his farm sometimes just digging ditches to give them employment instead of paying taxes, which he thought were unwisely spent by the government.

I have been doing some research on the suit case, and have discovered that the testimony of my governess, Miss Elizabeth Dougherty, was very crucial to Ruth and me winning the case.

Times Photo by Mel Toadvine

CHANTRY HOUSE. Regarded by many as one of the finest and most beautiful buildings in Salisbury, the Chantry House Restaurant was torn down in the late 1960s to make room for the Government Office Building in Salisbury, off North Division Street. Dr. Edward Tull held the mortgage on the building.

There is one more interesting point to this story: Dr. Robert Reese, his wife and Dr. Tull all attended the opening of King Tut's tomb in Egypt in 1922. Even then it was widely publicized that those disturbing the tomb would die, according to the pharaoh's curse.

Sure enough, Dr. Robert Reese, the famous eye doctor of New York that had Ted Dorman of Liberty Hall near Westover as a patient, was the first to go. Then Dr. Tull in 1927 and then Dr. Reese's wife in 1930. They were all about Dr. Tull's age, who was 61 when he died.

I know I have said it before, but I want to say thank you again to the many people who I have met while shopping or dining out that have introduced themselves to me and told me how much they enjoy this column.

So many people have shared bits of information with me about things that knew about the farm or about Dr. Tull. It is always nice to hear a compliment, and I am so glad that so many read and enjoy this column. Thanks so much for your continued interest.

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9 X 12

Johnson Lake Project Is Worthy

Editor Of The Times: 8/1/89

The current effort to fund rehabilitation of Johnson Lake for boating, fishing and swimming (and skating in season) calls to mind a similar public interest in that lake, as a community asset, some 60 years ago.

At that time — the late 1920s —New York and Philadelphia avenues were developing into a substantial residential neighborhood. The adjacent Johnson Lake was envisioned as a practical replacement for Humphrey Lake which had served as a sports rendezvous for the city's younger element until the lake was drained by the unexpected bursting of the South Division Street dam in 1909.

However, submerged stumps and underbrush in Johnson Lake critically restricted its use. As the co-publishers of *The Evening Times* (now *The Daily Times*), Alfred Truitt and I decided the paper should initiate a "nickels and dimes" fund-raising campaign to clear Johnson Lake of the obstructions. The idea was to motivate wide public participation by seeking only small contributions. Youngsters throughout the city embraced the idea and became volunteer solicitors.

The day after the campaign was announced, Walter Miller, an active outspoken civic leader, stopped by *The Times* to inform us that, if the goal was not reached, he would personally contribute the difference. He had recently led the movement to bring organized baseball to the Shore, had chaired the meeting to organize the Eastern Shore Baseball League and had served as its first president.

The campaign goal was reached without calling in Miller's offer. We let the contract for clearing Johnson Lake of the stumps and underbrush at a cost, as I recall, of $2,000. The current estimated cost to rehabilitate the lake is the penalty for years of maintenance neglect.

Editorial endorsement by *The Daily Times* of the current restoration proposal, some 60 years and three generations later, emphasizes the ongoing worthiness of the cause.

Charles J. Truitt Sr.
Salisbury

Mr. Truitt was first editor of The Times.

Johnson Pond Cleanup Urged

6/29/89

Matching State Grants Available To Help Reduce Algae

By PAUL DAVIES
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — Efforts are under way to clean up Johnson Pond after several years of algae growth has threatened marine life and stirred complaints from residents of a foul odor.

More than 40 residents attended an informal meeting Wednesday night to discuss ways to save the pond.

Del. Norman H. Conway, D-38th-Wicomico, told the residents a new state matching grant program has set aside $200,000 to begin studies to implement a plan to clean up Johnson Pond.

"It is a multi-year project and it's going to take some time to get done," Conway said. "The lake didn't get like that overnight and it's going to take more than a night to fix."

The $1 million program is in the fiscal 1990 budget and is set up through the Department of Environment's water and management administration. Robert M. Summers, chief of the water resources engineering division Chesapeake Bay and special projects program, said the cleanup is going to require the efforts of the Salisbury city and Wicomico County governments.

The state funds will be provided under a match program involving the local governments, Summers said.

The program calls for a three step process of first hiring a consultant to conduct a feasibility study, then begin short term cleanup efforts, until a permanent program can be instituted, Tom Plotts, city director of public works, said.

Much of the algae growth is caused by large amounts of nutrients dumped in the water from area factories and sewage treatment plants, Summers said.

One idea calls for the construction of artificial marshes near tributaries to collect the nutrients before they enter the pond, he said.

Summers stressed that it was "crucial" the local governments make a commitment to help fund the project before any work begins.

Plotts said Mayor W. Paul Martin is expected to contact the county council to begin talks on what is required from the local governments.

County Council President Henry S. Parker said the county is willing to work with the city to help with the cleanup, but it was too early to discuss how much the county is willing to spend.

"The county has to look at other ponds too," he said. "The first thing I want to know is how much are the consultants going to cost."

Parker added that he was unaware the $200,000 was available from the state until the start of the meeting.

Representatives from the biology department at Salisbury State University said they were willing to help with any research and students could also be involved.

County council members Philip L. Tilghman, John M. Morris and Betty K. Gardner also attended the meeting.

"The ball is rolling and things are moving," Plotts said. "The problem is the ball sat still for awhile but we're starting to get it going."

Pond Cleanup Effort Unveiled

7/21/89

City, County Officials Join Forces; Harvester At Heart Of $520,000 Plan

By PAUL DAVIES
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — A floating plant harvester and trash collector, similar to the one used at Baltimore's Inner Harbor, is being purchased as part of a joint effort to clean up Johnson Pond.

The estimated $520,000 cleanup effort was announced Thursday in a joint meeting of the Salisbury City and Wicomico County councils. The plan is the culmination of several years of efforts by area residents and Del. Norman H. Conway, D-38th-Wic., Mayor W. Paul Martin said.

The plan calls for the purchase of a floating twin-hull designed harvester to cut back plant growth and collect trash in the pond. The harvester costs $70,000 and is expected to eventually be used for other county and city waterways, Henry S. Parker, county council president, said.

Martin

Johnson Pond has been overrun in recent years with algae, which has threatened marine life and angered nearby residents with its foul odor.

The plan also calls for new plants to be grown in the pond to take away a large portion of the nutrients in the water. The lack of nutrients is expected to decrease algae growth. The harvester is needed to trim the plants once they reach the surface of the pond, Tom Plotts, city engineer, said.

The state department of the environment announced last month it would provide more than $200,000 in matching funds for the clean up of the pond. The plan is part of a pilot program aimed to help clean up the Chesapeake Bay and its surrounding waterways. The city and county each agreed to pay $115,000 in the state matching effort.

"The pond has been the center of activity for many people over the years and it should be a living viable waterway in the years to come," Martin said.

Conway

Parker said he remembered boat races on the pond each Fourth of July.

The first step is a long-range environmental study on how to control the algae growth and the immediate chemical application to limit further spreading, Plotts said.

The cleanup project is expected to take three years to complete. The city and county cost of the cleanup will be spread over 20 years, Martin said.

It was not known if the pond would ever be opened again for swimmers. Swimming was banned from the pond before the algae problem. Area residents complained of the danger and noise from swimmers late at night, Matthew E. Creamer, county administrator, said.

Parker said the project is an example of the two local government's effort to cooperate.

Martin added, "Much can be accomplished when you are working together and nothing is accomplished when you are divided."

Salisbury traffic plan is approved

By PAUL DAVIES
Daily Times Staff Writer

9/89

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council approved a plan Monday aimed at improving traffic conditions in area neighborhoods that included eliminating access from North Division Street to Route 13.

Many residents praised the plan while others called for the city to do more. The residents were most pleased with the plan to close North Division Street from Route 13, but said more stop signs are needed to slow motorists traveling through the area.

The council seemed somewhat divided on the stop sign issue, and, after some debate, voted 4-0 to approve the plan as proposed.

The plan includes:

- Making Park Avenue one way traveling south to north.
- Making Elizabeth Street one way traveling east to west.
- Making Livingston Street one way to Union Avenue.
- Eliminating left turns from Bridgeview Street to Route 13.
- Making Isabella Street a no-passing zone.
- Eliminating access from North Division Street to Route 13.

THE NEW TRAFFIC plan is expected to be initiated soon. Tom Plotts, city public works director, said the changes would go into effect once residents are notified and the signs are posted.

A temporary barrier is expected to be erected at Route 13 and North Division Street until residents get used to the change. A permanent barrier is expected to be erected at a later date.

The council said it would try the new traffic plan and see how it works before approving additional changes.

"If there still are problems, our doors are open, and I am sure we will hear from you," Council President Robin R. Cockey said.

The city also plans to increase enforcement of speed limit and stop signs in the area once additional officers are hired, Cockey said.

RESIDENTS FROM Newtown, Johnson Lake and North Salisbury originally proposed a traffic plan to the council. The residents claimed changes were needed to increase safety in the area. Several of their proposals were included in the council's plan.

More than 70 people attended the meeting. There was some division among residents as to the proper remedy to the problem, but most of the discussion centered on the question of more stop signs.

Cockey said he favored adding more stop signs. Councilwoman Jill E. Barbon said she was not opposed to stop signs, but moved the plan be approved as presented. Councilman Donald C. Davis amended the motion to include stop signs, but it was not approved.

Councilwoman Gertrude W. Shockley said she was not in favor of stop signs. Councilman S. Norman Holland Jr. did not attend the meeting.

BARBON SAID her motion was based on the recommendations of city department heads. Officials from the fire, police and public works departments said the stop signs would slow emergency access through the area.

In a letter to the council, Fire Chief Francis S. Darling said the stop signs "would slow down our response time to these areas," and "it will create a

See TRAFFIC, page 4

dangerous situation for us."

Police Chief Coulbourn M. Dykes said in his letter the closing of access from North Division Street to Route 13 would not generate "a large problem unless other neighborhoods follow suit." Dykes was more concerned about traffic problems around Route 50 and West Main Street if the traffic pattern was altered along Isabella Street.

Cockey said the plan would be re-evaluated after it is implemented.

Salisbury street change protested

10/24/89

By PAUL DAVIES
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — The city is still in the midst of implementing changes in the traffic pattern and already one new business owner said his convenience store is expected to lose customers as a result of the plan.

George L. Ralph said Monday night the new traffic pattern will have an adverse effect on his recently opened deli store. Ralph said the Salisbury City Council's decision to prohibit left turns from Bridgeview Street to Route 13 would hurt his business.

Ralph is the owner of the Original Deli Food Store on Bridgeview Street. He said customers and delivery trucks will have a difficult time leaving and entering the deli.

Thomas D. Plotts, director of public works, said the city's decision to prohibit the turn was done to improve safety in the area. Several accidents have occurred at the intersection, including one involving a Salisbury City Police car.

Motorists turning left from Bridgeview Street have a difficult time seeing cars coming over the bridge traveling south on Route 13.

The council recently voted to add several stop signs and close access from Route 13 to North Division Street in order to limit the amount of traffic in the neighborhoods. Prohibiting left turns from Bridgeview Street to Route 13 was included in the plan.

The city held several public hearings on the proposed changes. Representatives from several area neighborhood associations recommended many of the changes approved by the council. Many of the residents were divided over which part of the plan was best, depending on how each was affected.

Ralph said he was not aware of

See STREET, page 6

STREET, from page 1

the proposal to limit turns from Bridgeview Street until after the council approved the traffic plan.

"It just seems like all of a sudden you want to close the whole [illegible] down," he said.

Several residents said they supported the turning restriction from Bridgeview Street, while others said it limited their ability to drive north on Route 13.

One resident said the Bridgeview Street restriction would increase customers to the deli because they would "not get killed trying to make a left turn onto Route 13."

Plotts said the turning restriction should remain in effect because it benefits a majority of the community.

Council President Robin R. Cockey said the traffic plan is open for change. He said the city would consider making adjustments if the plan caused more problems than it settled. Cockey recommended Ralph wait and see how his business is affected before a change is made.

Other council members said traffic safety comes first in approving where signs and signals are located.

Salisbury, state agree on Johnson Pond cleanup

By CATHY COLLIER
Daily Times Staff Writer

1/9/90

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday night entered into a cost-share agreement with the Maryland Department of the Environment for the cleanup of Johnson Pond.

"We're going to rid the area of the noxious odors that permeate the area, and restore the fishing, and recreational uses," said Thomas Plotts, director of public works.

The 100-acre lake suffers from an overabundance of algae, Plotts said, which makes it a beautiful blue-green color in the summertime, but causes odors in the fall and winter when the algae dies.

The cost share agreement signifies the end of a two-year battle to provide funding for the project, Plotts said.

The project will cost an estimated $520,000, with the state providing $290,000 in matching grant funds. The city and Wicomico County will share the cost of the matching funds by borrowing a total of $150,000 from the Maryland Water Quality Loan Fund, and providing $80,000 in labor and equipment as in kind services, Plotts said.

The cleanup program will begin with a feasibility study which is already under way, Plotts said. "We want to exactly identify the problem and the procedures that could be employed," he said.

Plotts said algicides and herbicides could be applied by this summer to help reduce algae growth.

Artificial marshes will be constructed so nutrients are detained before entering the pond. Those marshes would be periodically harvested to remove the nutrients. Dredging is another plan that will help reduce the phosphorous levels, Plotts said.

Those four steps should slow down the growth rate of algae and possibly eliminate the problem. But Plotts said the cleanup should be taken a step further to ensure the future of the lake.

Approximately 53 percent of the land surrounding the lake is agricultural land while 12 percent of the land is urbanized. Better stormwater management and the creation of non-tidal wetlands may be necessary to keep Johnson Pond clean.

"It's impossible to clean up the water chemically and it's impossible to eliminate all types of discharges," Plotts said. But, he said, stricter laws may be needed in the future to prevent future problems.

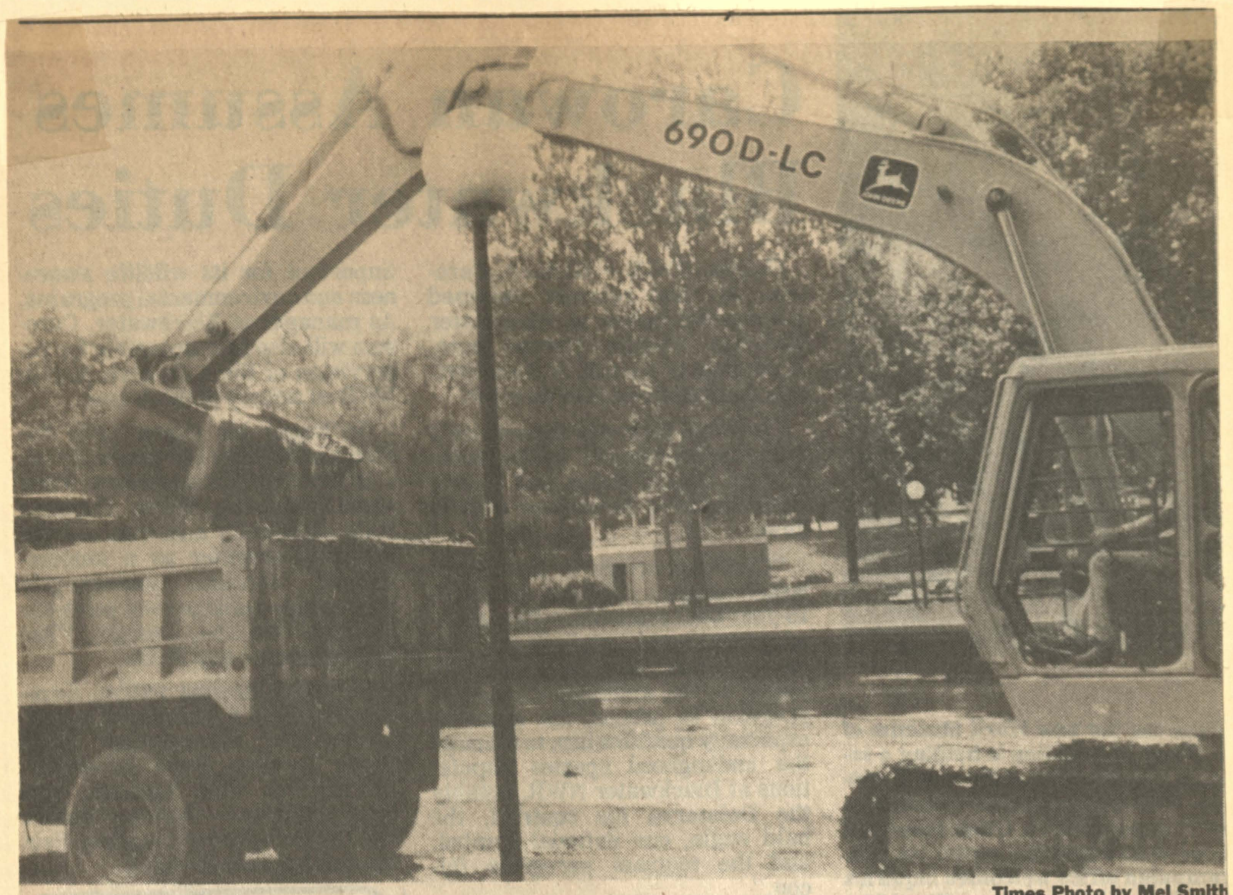
City tract to be preserved

5/29/90

SALISBURY — An area of city-owned land north of Johnson Pond and west of Scenic Drive near the Naylor Mill branch has been designated as a natural area by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources because of three significant plant species.

City Public Works Director Thomas D. Plotts told the city council Monday night the city can register the land in a voluntary program to encourage preservation of the area.

The council agreed to participate in the program, and will receive a plaque from the DNR.

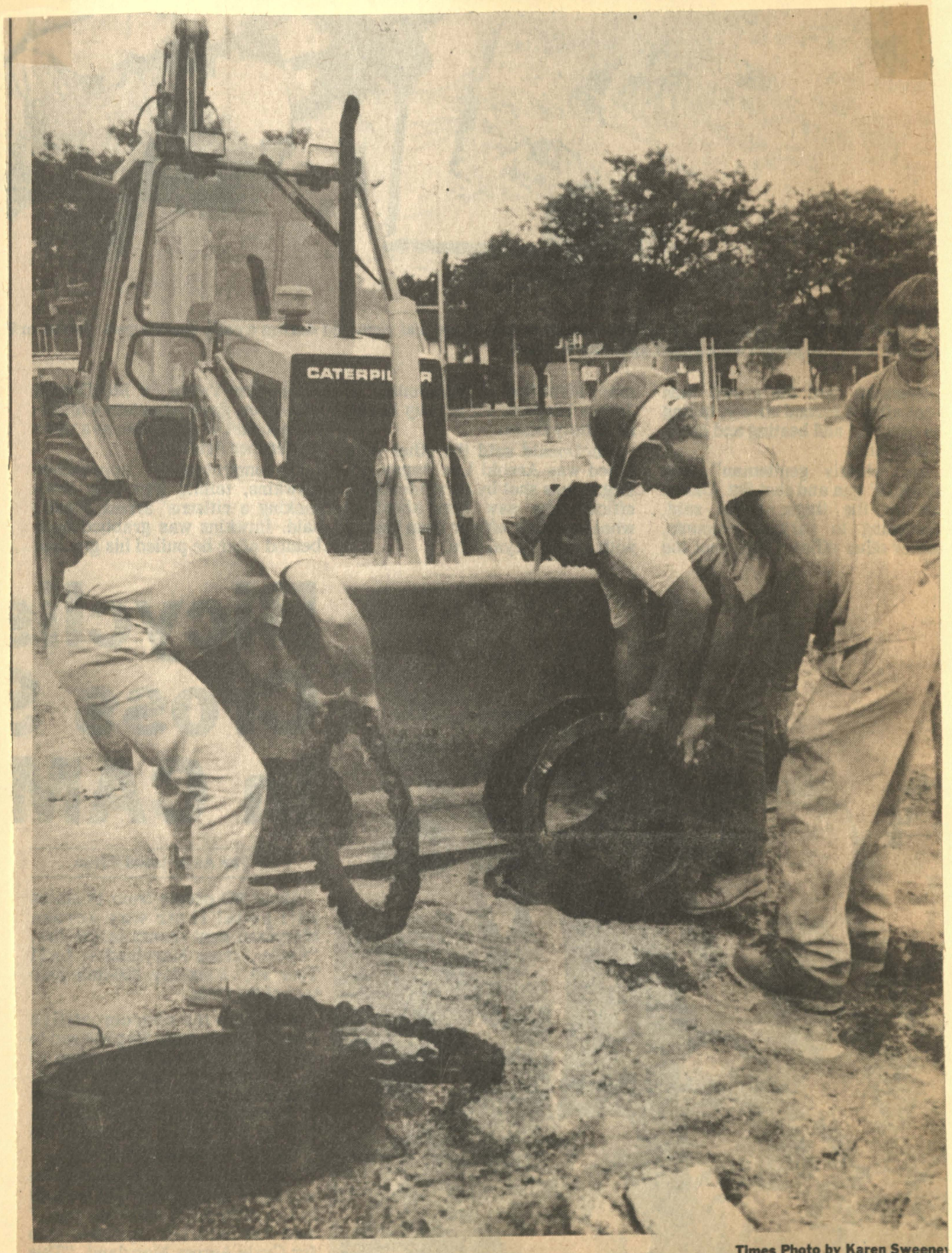


Times Photo by Mel Smith

Park Stream Cleanup

8/27/89

Howard Landon, Salisbury City Park foreman, dredges the stream running trough the park in preparation for the Firemen's Muster and Olympics on Sept. 9 Wednesday.



Times Photo by Karen Sweeney

Pipeline Construction

7/22/89

At the construction site of the Multi-Service Center, Salisbury city workers, left to right, Tom Stevenson, construction foreman, along with Marc Gonzales, backhoe operator, Dale Hopper and Ed White, place pipe fittings in a backhoe to move it because the city is relocating a water main. Stevenson said the line had to be moved because the new building would have been built over it.

Times Photo by Joey Gardner

Four-Way Test

4/2/89

Quinton Joyner, an employee with the city of Salisbury, paints the Rotary Four-Way Test on the sidewalk near the Wicomico County Court House. Looking on is Philip L. Bradshaw, chairman of the Four-Way Test Committee, which is searching for an individual to be honored by both Salisbury and Wicomico Rotary Clubs in April. The Rotarians are looking for someone who best fulfills the Rotary 4-Way Test of life. readers may nominate someone for the honor by contacting Bradshaw at P.O. Box 735, Salisbury, Md.

Times Photo by Karen Sweeney

Beaglin Park Excavation

6/24/89

Thomas Klaverweiden, owner of T.K. Construction of Salisbury, runs a bulldozer while placing water and sewer lines under Beaglin Park Drive next to Village In The Park, a new development. Traffic will be detoured for two weeks, when the work is expected to be completed.

Engineering begins for Route 50 bypass

3/15/89

SALISBURY — Planning for the U.S. Route 50 bypass around Salisbury is complete, but the engineering process has just begun, according to Donnie Drewer, district engineer for the State Highway Department.

State highway engineers will spend the next three years drawing plans and securing the necessary permits so construction can begin by 1992, Drewer said. A storm water management plan must also be drawn up.

"Hopefully we'll be ready to do a preliminary investigation of the area by 1990," he said.

The 5½ mile bypass will begin west of Salisbury at Naylor Mill Road and connect with the U.S. Route 13 bypass north of the city.

Times Photo by Todd Dudek

PEDESTRIAN ISLANDS. Bob Mitchell, supervisor of safety and enviroment programs for Dresser Industries, and Hal Noble, Dresser plant facilities engineer, watch Dresser groundskeeper Cliff Fields water a Shademaster Locust tree in a pedestrian island on College Avenue in Salisbury.

11/7/89

Island crossing

Dresser-city project increases pedestrian safety

By CATHY COLLIER
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — With a little good old-fashioned ingenuity, the city of Salisbury and Dresser Industries Inc. came up with a solution to the pedestrian traffic problem on College Avenue.

Employees of Dresser park across the street from the facility and must cross a sometimes busy College Avenue to go to work. There have been a number of close calls between pedestrians and vehicles and at least one accident, according to Thomas Plotts, director of public works for the city.

After nearly two years of talking about how to solve the problem, Plotts got an idea.

"I CROSS ROUTE 50 to my office at least twice a day, and I realized without the median strips there, I could never do it," he said.

So he met with Dresser officials, and they decided to install three islands in the center of College Avenue. Dresser agreed to pay for most of the cost, about $7,000, while the city provided about $2,000 for the project.

"We had thought about traffic lights, or crossing guards," he said, but the lights would have been expensive and the guards would be impractical.

The city coordinated the installation of the islands with road work to the four-lane street which helped reduce the cost.

DRESSER PAID for the curb and gutter to the islands and landscaping, while the cost of the bricks for the islands was divided.

"It's unique to the city," Plotts said, "but it could possibly work out well in other areas."

"It certainly looks nice and it gives the people a safe place to wait in the middle of the street so they won't get run over," said Raymond W. Gawronski, president of the Wayne Division of Dresser Industries.

City OKs waste wa

By CATHY COLLIER
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — A proposed $4.3 million municipal waste water treatment plant to serve both Salisbury and Wicomico County will likely become a reality within the next year, according to Newell W. Messick III, deputy director of public works for the city.

The Salisbury City Council agreed Monday night to borrow more than $3 million from the Maryland Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund. The Wicomico County Council agreed last month to borrow $1.7 million from the same fund.

The additional borrowed funds will go toward the first phase of the cleanup of Johnson Pond, according to City Executive Officer Patrick J. Fennell. "We're getting a lot of algae and other growth in the lake and some bad smells," he said.

Fennell said the city and the county governments have agreed to share the cleanup cost of $150,000. An engineering study has begun to determine how best to do the job, Director of Public Works Thomas Plotts told the council.

The joint waste water treatment project will be operated at the Salisbury sewage treatment plant on Marine Road.

The city and county began discussing the proposal several years ago when the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene wanted to close the pit called "black water lagoon" where septage haulers dump county waste, Messick said. The state favored processing the sludge through a municipal waste water treatment plant.

"The county is putting up its fair share of cost for equipment and facilities, while the operating and maintenance of the sludge handling facilities will be solely done by the city," Messick said.

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WASHINGTON (AP) — As governors from Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania prepare to meet with federal environmental officials today to discuss their progress in restoring the Chesapeake Bay, scientists and environmental activists caution that whatever gains may have been made, the cleanup still has a long way to go.

"I think we're taking two steps forward, and we're taking one and three-quarters steps back," said Maryland Sen. Gerald Winegrad,

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DELMARVA'S LARGEST NEW

Times Photo by Todd Dudek

12/28/89

Ice fountain

Stephen Young, 4, of Salisbury throws a snowball in the Salisbury City Park fountain as recent cold temperatures have turned the water spout into a giant ice fountain.

THE DAILY TIMES
Edward C. White, Publisher and General Manager
Mel Toadvine, Managing Editor
Greg Bassett, Editorial Page Editor

Big changes in Salisbury's malls

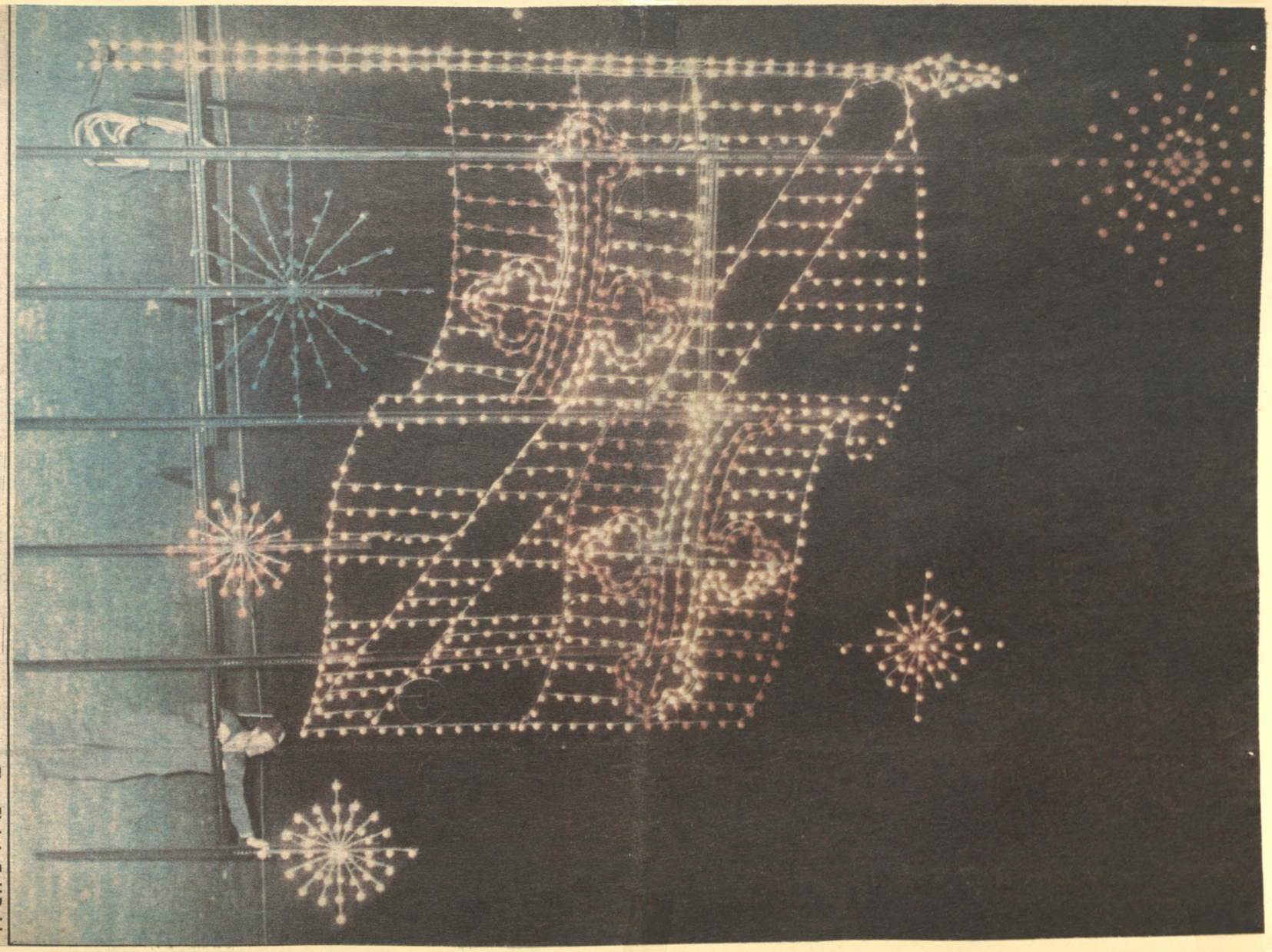
You would have to have your head buried in the sand not to realize big changes are on the way for Salisbury's retailers. With the opening of the impressive Centre at Salisbury a year-and-a-half away, the shopping — and spending — habits of Lower Shore and Southern Delaware consumers will change overnight. For some retailers the changes mean opportunity, for others the changes mean disaster.

There are many predictions being made — most of which are uncertain. With the planned construction of shopping centers in the rapidly developing Quantico Road and Snow Hill Road corridors, some people say, centralized shopping will decline. Others insist possibilities still exist for an increase in shopping traffic in the Salisbury's Downtown Plaza area, if the city is able to make revitalization of the downtown waterfront a reality. Some say the new mall, with its six anchor stores and more than 1 million square feet of space, is too big and will have a tough time drawing the business it needs to survive in the early going.

One opinion, however, appears to be unanimous: The Salisbury Mall, once heralded on billboards as "America's Most Beautiful Mall," is in trouble.

Recently the owners of the Salisbury Mall, which has certainly lost some of its gleam over the years, were criticized by members of the Salisbury-Wicomico Planning and Zoning Commission for not being aggressive enough in keeping big retailers that appear headed for the new mall. Instead of stimulating business for the old mall, the new mall appears destined to put the old mall out of business. The owners of the Salisbury Mall meanwhile, are spending most of their time discussing things like "salvage value" and studying the possibility of turning the proud old center into a discount shopping center.

With visions of the old Salisbury Shopping Center on the city's West Side spinning in their heads, city and county officials are desperate to see the old mall survive to continue as an active and vital part of the business community. The Salisbury's Mall's survival is as important to the community as the success of the new Centre at Salisbury. Free enterprise demands that only the strong survive, but it would be a tragedy to see the old mall fall into decline and take a part of the community with it.



Winter lights

Bruce Barrall of Salisbury puts the finishing touches on installing t
all and Bill Smith worked on the lights for the Wicomico County Dep
alling the Winter Wonderland lights in the Salisbury City Park. Bar-
nty Department of Tourism.

Times Photo by Todd Dudek

12/8/89

New zoo director outlines goals

By CHARLIE MUTH
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — The new director of the Salisbury Zoological Park was introduced to the city council Monday night and unveiled objectives he has set for the zoo after one week on the job.

The director is Don Bridgewater, who took over the $25,000-a-year position on Jan. 15. Bridgewater was chosen from more than 100 applicants after a one-year search to replace Peter Scowcroft, who retired last year, Director of Public Works Thomas D. Plotts told the council.

"I think that says a lot about our zoo that we received so many applications," Plotts said. "I think it also says something about Mr. Bridgewater that we chose him over so many other qualified applicants."

"I've just started, but so far I have three objectives," Bridgewater said.

He said his first goal is to expand the educational programs at the 20-year-old zoo. He also wants to examine the facility and see what needs to be upgraded.

Secondly, he wants to see the 350-member Friends of the Zoological Society triple in size in the next three years.

Bridgewater's third goal is to develop a short-term and a long-term plan for the zoo, "so everyone knows where we're heading," he said.

ALTHOUGH HE started his job last week, it was not his first experience with the zoo. He visited the new Salisbury Zoological Park after its opening in 1970.

"I was serving as the general scientific curator for the National Zoo in Washington at the time, and a couple of us made the trip to see the new zoo," he said.

"A lot has changed since then. In 1970 there were only a few exhibits, mostly waterfowl. Now there are several New World species (animals from North, South and Central America) featured at the zoo."

Bridgewater said the grounds and huts have been well maintained, creating a pleasant atmosphere at the zoo.

"We want to grow, but we want it to be controlled growth," he said. "We don't want to lose the unique qualities a small zoo can offer."

BRIDGEWATER began his career in 1966 as a scientific curator at the Oklahoma City Zoo, and in 1968 he became the general scientific curator at the National Zoo in Washington.

In 1970 he moved his family to Minnesota, where he was involved in the planning of the Apple Valley Zoo, near Minneapolis-St. Paul. After the zoo was completed in 1978, he changed careers and worked as the director of the Oklahoma Museum Association.

"It was enjoyable, but after awhile I was ready to get back to work at a zoo," Bridgewater said. "I just waited for the right zoo to need me, and Salisbury was my first choice."

Friends and colleagues have asked Bridgewater why he settled for the directorship of such a small zoo and his response has been "it's not a small zoo.

"There is no such thing as a small zoo if you measure how it serves the community," Bridgewater said. "If you use that definition it's not a small zoo."

1/23/90

Don Bridgewater

Friends to host Earth Day 1990 4/18/90

Friends of the Salisbury Zoo president Linda Anderson, left, and Barbara Mason, far right, listen as Steve Eccleston, city forester, describes the hardy characteristics of the needle-leaved palm. The Friends will host a 20th anniversary Earth Day event at the Zoo Sunday from noon until 4 p.m. Volunteers from FOSZ and Delmarva Power, sponsors of the event, will be giving away loblolly pine seedlings to encourage people to take part in the event. Puppet shows and slides on environmental topics will be presented by zoo education docents.

New zoo ramps 3/9/90

Carol Hess, vice president of Friends of Salisbury Zoo, strolls on the new ramps at the zoo with her children, Julianna and Michael. The ramps and walkways to the bison and waterfowl exhibits were funded by the corporate members of the zoo. Hugh W. Mohler headed a membership drive and more than 70 local businesses made donations. Those interested in joining FOSZ may call (301) 548-3188.

THE DAILY TIMES
Edward C. White, Publisher and General Manager
Mel Toadvine, Managing Editor
Greg Bassett, Editorial Page Editor
PAGE 6 Salisbury, Md., Monday, July 9, 1990

Questions about Salisbury's bridges

Last week Salisbury officials were forced to close one of the city's most important traffic links. The little noticed Memorial Plaza Bridge, which crosses Beaverdam Creek just down the hill from the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center, was found to be unsafe by consultants who inspect the city's bridges.

With the bridge's closing, thousands of motorists are experiencing inconvenience that could have been avoided. City officials knew for some time that the 40-plus-year-old structure was being used beyond intentions. The city had planned to wait until its next bond issue to obtain funds to replace the wooden structure, but the bridge failed to hold up long enough. Now officials are hoping to install a temporary span and Memorial Park Drive — a major city throughfare utilized by more than 1,000 cars each day — is closed.

This is not the first city bridge to have problems in recent years. In 1987 a large chunk of the bridge crossing the Wicomico River on Isabella Street fell into the water, forcing it to close for several weeks. A stepped-up inspections program could prevent such surprise closings. The city's bridges are inspected bi-annually, but more frequent inspections could head off the kind of problems that have forced the closing of Memorial Plaza Bridge. Apparently, six months ago the bridge — while structurally troubled — was still safe. Today it is closed and its $100,000 replacement could take up to two years to build.

Hindsight is 20-20, but officials should have seen this problem coming. The current situation spawns an obvious question: How many other city bridges are in danger of being found unsafe on their next inspection?

Wicomico 6/30/90

Beaverdam Creek bridge closed

SALISBURY — The Memorial Bridge over the Beaverdam Creek here has been closed to vehicular traffic because it has been found to be unsafe, according to Salisbury Director of Public Works Thomas D. Plotts.

The bridge will not be reopened to traffic until further evaluation of the bridge is made, Plotts said. No date has been determined yet.

The decision to close the bridge was made following an inspection.

Times Photo by Cathy Collier

BRIDGE CLOSED. Salisbury Director of Public Works Thomas Plotts stands in front of Memorial Park Bridge which crosses Beaverdam Creek near the Salisbury Zoo. The bridge was closed last week because a consultant's report deemed it unsafe for traffic.

7/31/90

Bridge replacement sought

By CATHY COLLIER
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — City officials are hoping to find a temporary bridge to replace the dilapidated Memorial Plaza Bridge which was closed late last week because it was deemed unsafe, according to Thomas Plotts, director of public works.

The bridge spans Beaverdam Creek near the Salisbury Zoo on Memorial Park Drive.

The city had planned to wait until its next bond issue before plans were made to replace the small, wooden structure which Plotts said was built at least 40 years ago. But a bi-annual bridge inspection conducted by a consulting agency from Baltimore concluded replacement of the bridge could not wait.

"Now he (the consultant) is saying there are too many structural problems to be used safely," Plotts said. "Apparently, we're going to have to remove this bridge."

Plotts said a new bridge would cost about $100,000, and bonds for the project will be sold in about six months. A new bridge could be in place in 18 to 24 months, he said. The city will also search for grants that may help ease the cost, he said.

Plotts said he has been busy looking for a temporary bridge, or Bailey bridge, that could be used until a new one is built. He said he is hoping the Maryland National Guard will donate a Bailey bridge, or the city may have to rent one.

Plotts estimated about 1,000 cars use the bridge each day, which is a moderate to heavy traffic flow for the bridge. He said the span was not built to handle the amount of traffic use it gets.

The consultant also recommended weight limit signs be posted at the Beaver Dam Bridge by Picnic Island and Isabella Street Bridge, Plotts said.

Times Photo by Joey Gardner

Planting geraniums

6/26/90

Salisbury City Forester Steve Eccleston, far right, talks with Benedict Gardens manager Glenn Benedict Jr. as Benedict Gardens employees Ed Gordon of Laurel and Colin McAllister of Salisbury plant some of the 600 geraniums on the Downtown Plaza that have been donated to the city by Benedict Gardens.

THE DAILY TIMES

Mel Toadvine, Managing Editor
Greg Bassett, Editorial Page Editor

PAGE 4 Salisbury, Md., Monday, January 15, 1990

A pavilion for River Walk Park

Salisbury's River Walk Park, located in the heart of town near the Sheraton Salisbury, has never attracted the people its planners envisioned. An attractive park area, it makes an ideal location for the annual Salisbury Festival. Other than for that event, however, few people venture into River Walk Park.

New plans to construct an outdoor pavilion at the park could change all that.The pavilion is the brainchild of the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce and has the endorsement of the Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council.

Estimated to cost between $115,000 and $120,000, plans call for the pavilion to seat 75 to 80 people. Its 35-foot stage would face the river near the Sheraton and U.S. Route 13. The structure would be open on three sides, and the pavilion area could easily accommodate 200 to 250 people for concerts or shows.

A good deal of laudable community effort has already gone into the pavilion project. The Salisbury City Council has agreed to provide the land for the project and is looking for ways to fund $25,000 in seed money for the pavilion. The architectural firm of George Miles & Buhr has come up with a detailed set of plans for the pavilion and has agreed to provide $25,000 to $30,000 of in kind services toward the project.

To become a reality, the pavilion project needs community support. If built, the pavilion would be no waste of community effort, but would be a top-notch drawing card for the city.

Plaza grant applications OK'd

8/28/90

SALISBURY — The city agreed to apply for matching state grants Monday night to spruce up the Downtown Plaza through the Central Salisbury Revitalization Association.

One grant will help pay for a marketing and feasibility study to learn what businesses would be best suited for the Downtown Plaza and surrounding area. That grant will not cost the city any money in matching funds.

Two other grants will go toward landscaping the plaza and lighting the plaza and surrounding area. The $7,500 in city matching funds is already in this year's budget, and the $9,000 in matching funds for lighting will come from the CSRA's budget.

City Public Works Director Thomas Plotts argued the $7,500 was budget strictly for maintenance on the Plaza, and would not be able to go toward capital improvement projects. The mayor ordered representatives of the CSRA and the Department of Public Works to find out whether the $7,500 could be used as matching funds without compromising what maintenance needed to be done.

After some scolding for not presenting the council with enough information before the meeting, the council voted to authorize the CSRA to apply for the grants. The deadline for application is Sept. 5.

One-block area declared surplus

4/24/90

SALISBURY — An entire block of city-owned land was declared surplus property by the Salisbury City Council Monday night.

The city's redevelopment coordinator Herman Stevens asked the council for the designation so developers who are interested in the land could bid for it.

Stevens said developers from Baltimore and Philadelphia were interested in the Fields Building which is on West Main and Lake streets. The council designated the entire block from West Main Street to Route 50 as surplus property.

Salisbury

Council gives up right-of-way

1/23/90

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday night gave final approval to an ordinance closing a portion of Locust Terrace and abandoning the right-of-way property.

Since the particular portion of Locust Terrace has never been paved, the city will not actually be closing a road, it just gives up the right-of-way, according to Thomas D. Plotts, director of public works.

Plotts said the owners of the property adjoining the right-of-way will now be responsible for maintaining the property.

Council OKs annexation

4/24/90

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday night approved the annexation of 14.7 acres on the northeast side of Dykes Road.

The land, owned by Mary Ellen Bradley, will change from the R-15 zoning designation in the county, to R-8A in the city. The city zoning will allow for one more single family unit per acre than the county's zoning, but allows for four less apartment units and six less townhouse units.

Salisbury

Loan to finance sewer upgrade

1/9/90

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday night agreed to borrow more than $3 million from the Maryland Water Quality Financing Administration for the joint city and county waste water treatment facility and the cleanup of Johnson Pond.

Street area to be closed

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday night agreed to close a section of Locust Terrace and deed the land back to two landowners.

According to City Attorney Robert A. Eaton, in past years the city has had problems maintaining property in the cul-de-sac off Locust Street, and the property has no value to the city.

City to join topography study

SALISBURY — The city of Salisbury will participate in a grant program with the state of Maryland which will result in aerial topography of the county.

According to Director of Public Works Thomas Plotts, the city has been working for the past two years to get aeriel photographs to use in conjunction with the computer system.

The state of Maryland wants aerial photographs of the area because it is conducting a watershed study of the Wicomico River. By working together, the city will save money and efforts won't be duplicated, he said.

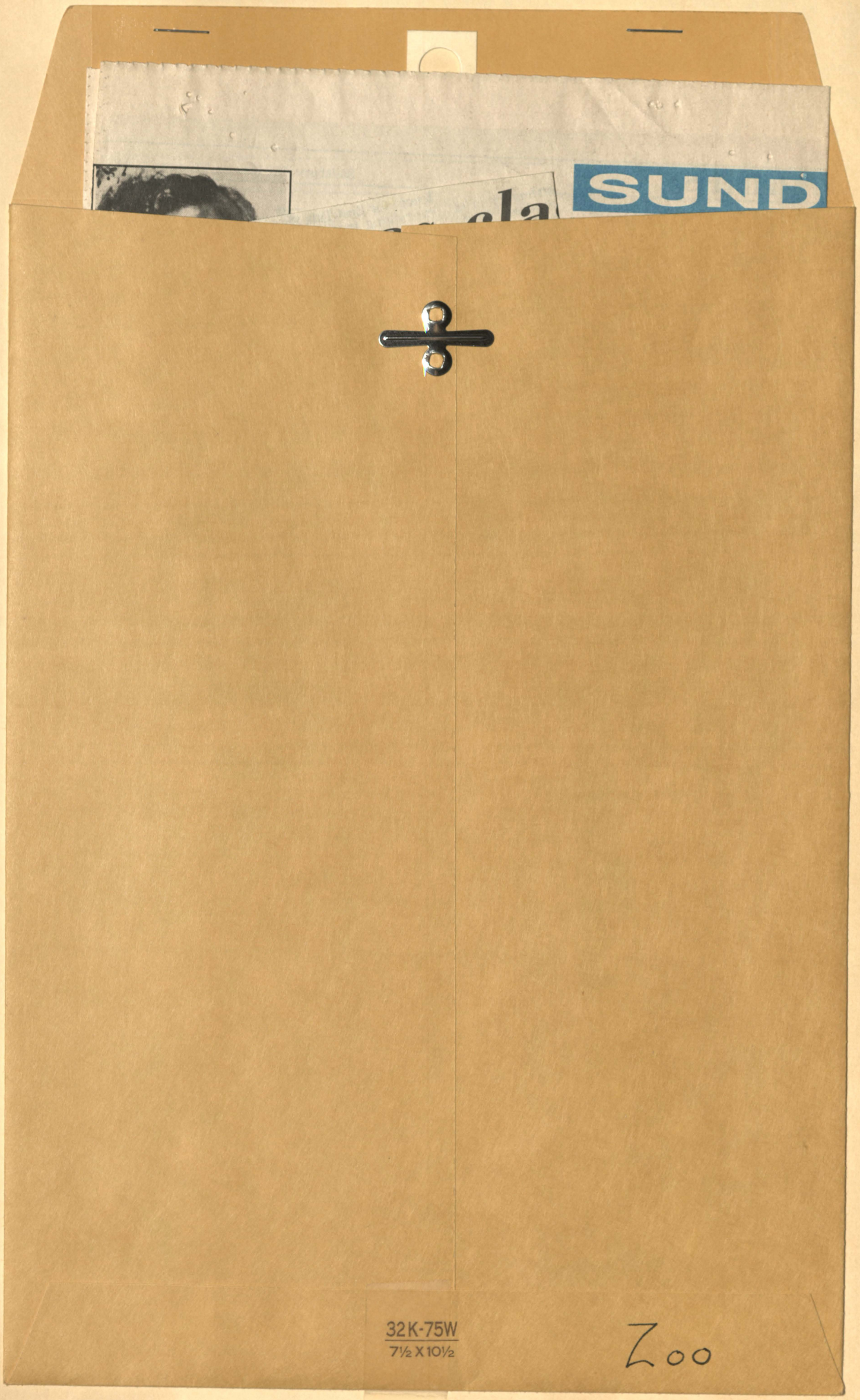
Plotts said the $128,000 grant "proves beyond a shadow of the doubt there is a Santa Claus," since he found out about the program at Christmas time.

Council OKs closing of Mitchell Street

5/29/90

SALISBURY — Mitchell Street here between West Vine and West Locust streets will be closed so Peninsula General Hospital Medical Center can expand and improve parking facilities.

The Salisbury City Council Monday night gave the plan final approval, since the hospital owns all of the adjacent land.



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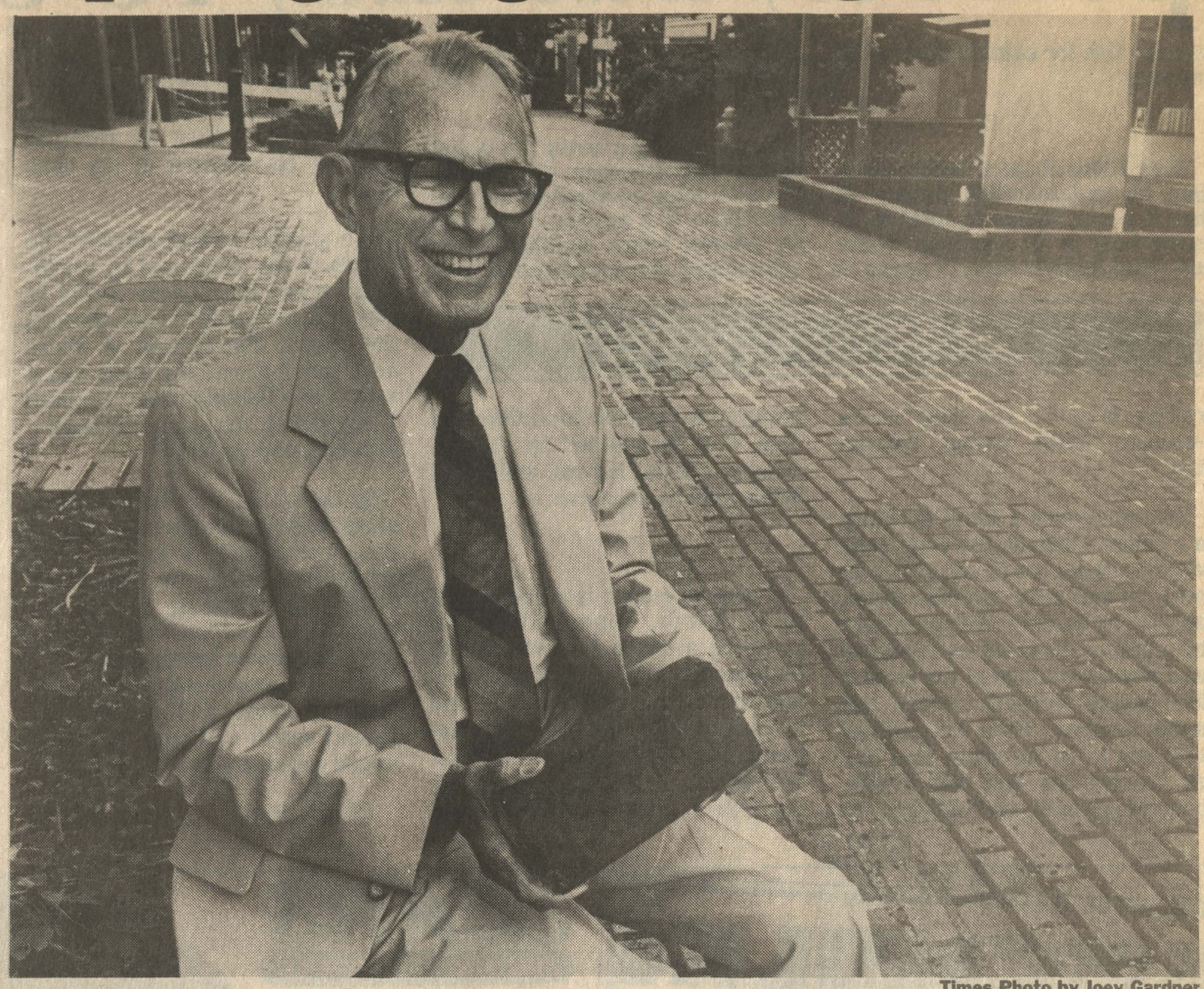
Zoo

'Pete' Cooper going strong at 80

People live longer these days than they did a half a century ago. So, an 80th birthday is no longer the big deal it used to be. Many now make it to 90 and beyond, and we heard on television one morning that across the United States there are 25,000 people who have made it to 100.

Still, 80 is a big fat milestone, especially for those who still have all of their faculties and the will and energy to make them function.

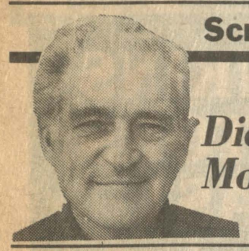
Philip C. "Pete" Cooper is a perfect example of what we're talking about. He is the retired director of



Times Photo by Joey Gardner

Philip C. 'Pete' Cooper holds a brick he kept in 1968 when the brick travelway and planters were put in the Downtown Plaza.

Scratch Pad



Dick Moore

Salisbury Public Works, having served under seven mayors since E.R. "Ted" White appointed him in 1950, until his retirement in 1978.

He never really retired, continuing to work on one thing or another, such as a five-year stint as the director of Downtown Revitalization. That project is still on-going, getting boosts from such things as a historic preservation and new additions such as the mammoth downtown state office building.

"We've got to bring things that no one else has downtown," he said recently.

His engineering experience goes back to pre-World War II days, serving as a resident engineer for the old State Roads Commission when the new Route 50 bridge, now the Harry Kelley Memorial Bridge, was built.

After serving with the seabees during World War II, he returned to state service until Mayor White selected him to be the city engineer, a post which became director of Public Works.

Among the mayors he served is Frank H. Morris, who said, "He was a man of immense integrity. He never spoke even a half truth." Morris noted that he and Cooper had locked horns on many an occasion. but when it was all over, Cooper would say to the city fathers, "It's your call now."

Morris said Cooper's vision and long-range vision left a permanent imprint on the city, coming as it did at a time when old streets needed wider ones. He was there for such things as urban development, the routing of Route 50 (now Salisbury Parkway) through the heart of the city, more downtown parking, Eastern Shore Drive, Carroll Street and Waverly Drive and efforts to shake downtown from the effects of fleeing retail trade.

Mayor W. Paul Martin called him a man of great foresight, "a perfectionist who didn't know the meaning of the word 'no.'" And another he served, Mayor Boyd E. McLernon, added, "He's the best thing that ever happened to Salisbury."

Martin said occasionally Cooper presented ideas to the city council which greeted them cooly. Cooper merely brought them up later at a more propitious time. Other mayors he served were the late Rollie Hastings, Dallas G. Truitt, Jerry Valliant, now retired in Oxford, Md., and the late Elmer F. Ruark.

Cooper's 80th birthday on a recent Saturday night was celebrated with family and a small gathering of old friends. There was Frank Holloway, a classmate at the University of Maryland, who drove up from Raleigh, N.C.

Then there was his brother, four years older, Josh Cooper from Alexandria, Va., now a retired rear admiral. He was the captain of the great battleship Iowa during the Korean War.

Mike Meise, a retired *Daily Times* staffer, covered much of Cooper's long career with the city. He once wrote something to the effect that, "We'll never have to erect a monument to Pete Cooper. They're all over this city."

Indeed, people walk on one of them every day on the Downtown Plaza. They are the historic oversized bricks which came from

See MOORE, page B11

Union Station, once a beehive of activity here before railroad passenger service faded away.

Cooper said the bricks, which were set in loose sand, date to the Civil War era when the railroad first came to Salisbury. He saw them as a historic addition to the plaza as it was being converted from a through street. Cooper traded the railroad with asphalt paving for its platform.

It's indeed great to reach 80 and still be active. He just finished a three-year stint as chairman of the Deer's Head Foundation, a group which provides amenities which the state is unable to provide for the hospital. And, for years, there was his great interest in Scouting, and 40 years of service to the Rotary Club.

Salisbury 2/13/90

City supports lift of Open Space cap

SALISBURY — Mayor W. Paul Martin and the Salisbury City Council passed a resolution Monday night in support of lifting the cap on Maryland's Program Open Space funding.

The money collected from the state transfer tax goes toward the state's parks and recreational facilities. Several Maryland counties and cities have passed similar resolutions in support of lifting the cap.

"Lifting the present funding cap on Program Open Space will allow fuller utilization of transfer tax revenues for the purposes originally intended," the resolution stated.

The resolution will be presented to the General Assembly and Gov. William Donald Schaefer.

Sewer funds to be reallocated

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council agreed Monday to reallocate bond revenues to allow for sewer and water hookups to Granby's Cove subdivision.

More than $78,000 was originally borrowed to allow for sewer and water hookups to Forest Lake Estates and Spring Chase subdivisions, but the estimated cost was more than the actual cost.

The extra bond revenue will now go toward Granby's Cove, and allow for a contingency fund of more than $3,000.

2/13/90

Council gets look at pond machine 2/13/90

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday night got its first glimpses of the Loch Ness Monster — an aquatic trash skimmer and weed harvester.

The $81,147 machine from United Marine International is being purchased with state grant funds to aid in the joint city and county effort to clean up Johnson Pond.

The council watched a 10-minute film of the machine being used in Baltimore's Inner Harbor to remove floating trash and debris, and to harvest aquatic vegetation.

Parking changes OK'd for city park

10/9/90

By CHARLIE MUTH
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City County took steps Monday night to alleviate the parking and traffic problems that exist at the Salisbury City Park.

The council ordered two new no parking signs be put up — one on Beaverdam Bridge near Picnic Island and the Salisbury Zoo and the other east of the baseball field.

At the request of Tom Plotts, the city director of public works, the council also decided to have the angular parking spaces on South Park Drive near the bandstand changed to perpendicular parking to add 25 to 30 spaces.

"There's a real problem at the park and we have to do something about it," City Councilman S. Norman Holland Jr. said. "I've had people call me and say there are so many cars parked on the bridge they can't pass."

Since the Memorial Plaza Bridge has been closed to traffic, more people have been using Beaverdam Bridge and some have complained that only one car can cross the bridge at a time and the poor visibility creates hazardous conditions, Holland said.

"Yes, the signs will eliminate a few parking spaces by Picnic Island, but it doesn't mean people won't be able to find parking at all," said Maj. Edward Guthrie of the Salisbury Police Department. "Some people will have to park by the bandstand and walk down, but that's just the price you'll have to pay to use the park."

The signs and parking changes are expected to be completed in the next month.

THE DAILY TIMES
Edward C. White, Publisher and General Manager
Mel Toadvine, Managing Editor
Greg Bassett, Editorial Page Editor
PAGE 6 Salisbury, Md., Friday, October 12, 1990

Parking in the city park

For certain activities — particularly picnicking— there are few recreational areas on the Shore that compare to the Salisbury City Park. In all seasons, the park is a beautiful location for relaxing. Its tall trees, wildlife, winding streams, tennis, horseshoe and playground facilities make for an inviting environment that attracts thousands of people each year. It would not be out of line to say that the park — and the city zoo attached to the east end of it — are the No. 1 attraction in Salisbury.

Because the park is such a great attraction, traffic and parking in the park are quite a headache — especially on weekends. A combination of good weather and the forced-closing of the Memorial Plaza Bridge has both traffic and crowds at what might be an all-time record in the park. The situation has gotten so bad it's dangerous.

With all that in mind, the Salisbury City Council this week took authoritative action to solve the problem. The council's decision: Put up more No Parking signs. The council ordered two new No Parking signs be put up — one on Beaverdam Bridge near Picnic Island and the Salisbury Zoo and the other east of the baseball field. When no parking spaces are left on Picnic Island, parkgoers are expected to park down by the bandstand and walk — a difficult task made more difficult by the fact that the west bridge to Picnic Island still hasn't been repaired.

The council's action, in this case, is remarkably short-sighted. Rather than encourage more people to take advantage of the city recreational wonder, the city is discouraging visitors and residents alike. A better solution to the parking problem is needed.

Wicomico 9/11/90

Garbage ordinance OK'd by council

SALISBURY — A new garbage ordinance was approved by the Salisbury City Council Monday night that will fine residents who don't properly dispose of their trash.

The law states that trash must be placed at the curb in an approved container, which is either a metal or rubber can with a lid, or a plastic bag. If the bag is torn or a can turned over and trash is spread across the sidewalk, a resident could be fined if sanitation crews have to make a special trip to pick up the mess.

Apartment complexes that have automated trash pickup must designate a special bulk trash area for items that won't fit in the bins. All trash must be inside the automated containers on pick-up day or it won't be hauled.

Residents, businesses and apartment complexes that violate the ordinace will have a choice. They can either pay about a $40 fine for their first infraction or be charged with a misdemeanor, and face up to a $100 fine or no more than 20 days in jail.

Trash ordinance approved by council

9/25/90

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday night gave final approval of an ordinance that would punish landowners who improperly dispose of their trash.

The new ordinance establishes trash bags and metal or rubber trash cans with lids as the only approved containers. All garbage not in those containers would be subject to $50 fines and a possible misdemeanor charge.

Salisbury cracks down on trash

8/15/90

By CATHY COLLIER
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — Public works officials here are cracking down on delinquent trash disposers and may begin imposing fines on residents if city workers have to pick up loose garbage or torn bags.

Public Works Director Thomas Plotts has proposed a list of changes to the city's garbage hauling ordinance. The Salisbury City Council has directed City Solicitor Robert A. Eaton to draft the proposed changes. Any amendments would be subject to a public hearing before final approval.

For single-family residential areas, all trash will have to be placed in an approved container, and placed at the curb or just behind the sidewalk. If there are broken bags, the regular garbage crew will not pick it up.

If a special crew has to be dispatched to pick up the trash, residents will have to pay a minimum bill of $43.75.

"The cost assessed will be based on the labor and equipment cost to pick up the refuse with a 15-minute minimum, plus a punitive amount of $25," Plotts said. He added that the cost of a truck and two workers is $75 an hour.

"If you put it in a plastic bag, it won't be a problem, unless it gets broken somehow," said Mayor W. Paul Martin. "We will still pick it up, but we will assess residents a fee."

Martin said the problem has escalated to the point where haulers are taking too much time cleaning up scattered trash and getting behind in their routes. Overtime expenses have also been adding up, he said.

Another problem the city has encountered has been trash pickup at the 23 apartment complexes within city limits. Three years ago the city began to use automated trash haulers to help save money, Plotts said.

The automated trucks allow the operator to pick up a garbage container and empty it without ever getting out of the truck.

But that system breaks down when there is trash placed around the containers. The driver has to get out of the truck, place the garbage into the containers and then empty the entire container again, Plotts said.

"This is destroying the economy of the program," Plotts said.

Last week, the city put the burden on apartment managers to make sure all trash is in the containers before pickup. If it is not, the trash collector will not pick up the surrounding trash.

City workers review snow emergency plan

By CHARLIE MUTH
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — The first snowflake hasn't fallen in Salisbury yet, but city officials began preparing for a winter of snow-covered roads Wednesday by dusting off the snow plows.

Employees at the Salisbury Department of Public Works were briefed on the city's snow emergency plan and later tested all of the equipment to make sure everything is ready for the first snowfall of the season.

The employees were happy to be participating in just a drill and not the real thing on Wednesday, considering this time last year they were already removing snow from city streets.

The workers were called to remove snow and salt roads several more times before the first of the year as Delmarva continued to get fresh blankets of snow earlier than normal last winter.

Thomas D. Plotts, director of public works, told the workers they could expect to be called into work at the first sign of snow or ice and even if they are not asked to come in they should remain on standby in case they are needed later.

There are about 130 people who work in the Department of Public Works, but approximately 60 will be regularly removing snow and salting the roads. The rest will just be called in as they are needed, Plotts said. No new employees are hired for snow removal.

"It costs the city about $4,000 an inch every time it snows," Salisbury Mayor W. Paul Martin said. "Of course it depends when the snow falls. If it snows on a weekday during normal working hours then it's not so bad and doesn't cost us that much extra. But you never can tell when it's going to snow and if we have to call people out in the middle of the night it really starts to cut into our overtime."

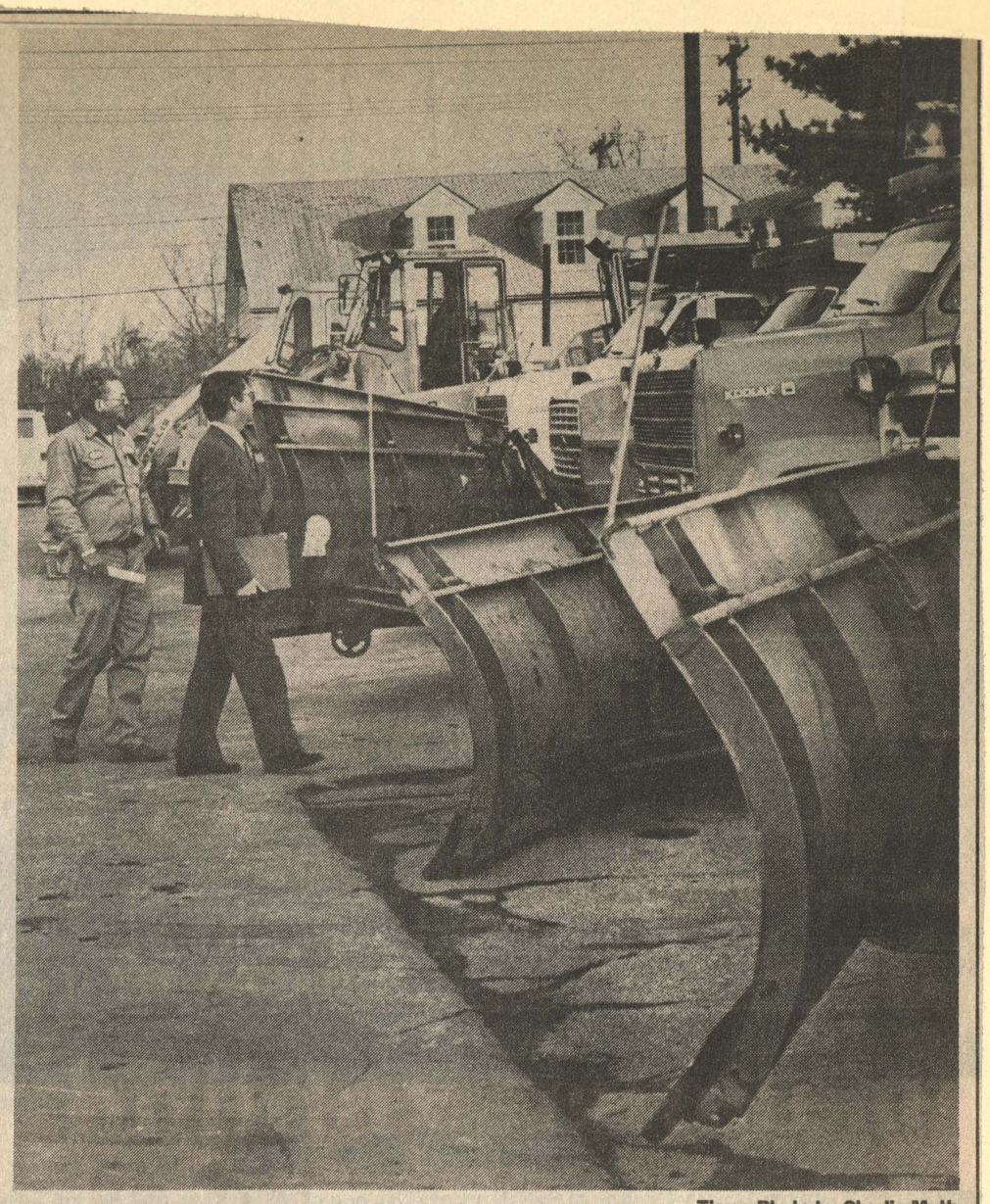
The city expects to spend about $200,000 for snow removal this winter, but only $15,000 is in the snow emergency plan budget, Plotts said.

The $15,000 is for road salt and the rest of the money will come from other budget accounts to pay for salaries, overtime and maintenance of the equipment, he said.

The snow removal budget this year is the same as last year's, when the city almost had to dip into the contingency fund to refill the salt bins.

"We had a lot of snow last year and we almost ran out of money for salt, but the good Lord smiled on us at the last minute and we didn't get any more big snowstorms," Martin said. "But even though it was a close call you can't compare last winter to this winter. It was an usual winter and we got more snow than we usually do. That may not happen this year and then we'd be stuck with all this extra salt."

Primary routes will be the first roads to be cleared and salted and then city workers are instructed to begin plowing the residential streets.



Times Photo by Charlie Muth

INSPECTION. Salisbury Street Foreman John Slade, left, and Salisbury Director of Public Works Thomas D. Plotts inspect the city snow plows Wednesday before a snow emergency plan drill.

11/22/90

Salisbury 12/11/90

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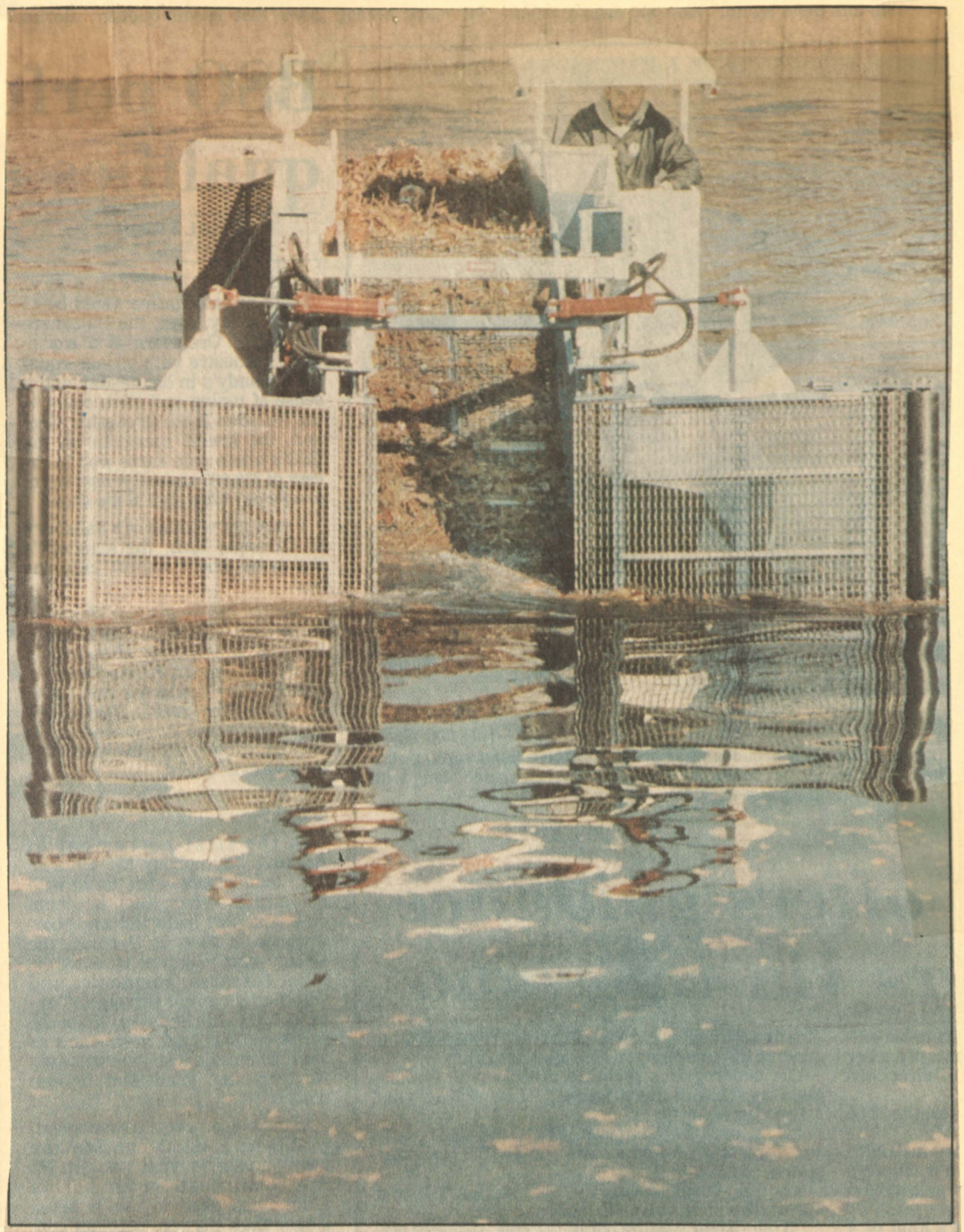
The cleanup effort is expected to take about three years.

Times Photo by Todd Dudek

Snow equipment

The city of Salisbury Department of Public Works put on a snow equipment inspection and demonstration and reviewed the city's snow emergency plan Wednesday at the maintenance yard in Salisbury. Here, employees back removal equipment into sheds for storage until the first snow.

10/29/91



Times Photo by Joey Gardner

CLEANUP. Salisbury Dockmaster Eric Hastings cleans up the Wicomico River with the city's new trash skimmer.

12/1/90

New trash skimmer making Wicomico waters cleaner

By CHARLIE MUTH
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — The Wicomico River is a little cleaner now that the city of Salisbury has a new way of ridding its waterways of garbage.

The city recently spent $80,000 to buy a trash skimmer, and city Dockmaster Eric Hastings said it has not only made the river more litter-free, but it has made his job a lot easier.

Before the trash collecting boat arrived at the Port of Salisbury Marina on Nov. 6, Hastings had to ride along the river in a regular vessel with a pitchfork and crab net to fish the refuge out of the water.

The process, which was done nearly every day, usually took him an entire day and he usually collected 10 boat loads of garbage.

With the trash skimmer he can gather the same amount of litter in one load and it only takes him about an hour.

City officials have been losing the pollution battle in the downtown section of the river for years and they are hoping this new tool will solve the predicament.

"For years I've had people calling me and complaining about how bad that river looks with all of that garbage floating around," Salisbury Mayor W. Paul Martin said. "We had to do something. You have to admit it looked pretty bad."

The mayor and members of the city council got the

See SKIMMER, page 9

idea of buying the trash skimmer, which they have dubbed the "Loch Ness Monster," from the city of Baltimore, which has a fleet of them sweeping its inner harbor.

The skimmer has several conveyer belts that pick up a variety of garbage floating in the river, such as styrofoam cups, cardboard, cans, bottles, cigarette butts, tires, tennis balls, paint cans and sometimes even 12-foot-long bamboo poles.

"Most of the trash is up by the Sheraton, you know, the heart of the city," Hastings said. "The wind blows it off the streets and into the river and some of it comes right from the gutters."

The skimmer also collects a large portion of the leaves that fall into the river, keeping too much silt from accumulating on the river's floor and preventing the sewage drains from clogging, he said.

"It's really just a wonderful thing for the river," Martin said. "Not only does it keep the water cleaner, but it improves the city's image."

Hastings will continue to sweep the downtown section of the Wicomico River, but city officials plan to use the skimmer to clean Johnson's Pond.

Since it's the only one on the Delmarva Peninsula, the city may rent the skimmer out to other Shore towns and cities to extract the litter from its waterways.

Keeping history alive at Poplar Hill

By BRICE STUMP
Daily Times Staff Writer

Poplar Hill Mansion's first official curator has started his job, and he says he is loving every minute of it.

When Robert "Rob" Withey unlocked the large entry door to the mansion on Elizabeth Street here on Oct. 1, he walked right into the history pages of the city's most historic home.

"It's like coming home again. I spent 30 years of my life here on Elizabeth Street. I was born just four doors away, and grew up in what is now the Newtown District," said Withey. "And some of the neighbors here, like Rev. and Mrs. Edward Brittingham, have been here for 32 years, so it feels like home."

Coming home also means living in the 1805 Federal period house with transitional Georgian architecture.

"There have been caretakers here for years, but it was the first time that Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion Inc. named an individual as a curator. As such, I am entrusted with preserving, cataloging furnishings, and acquiring items for the mansion," Withey said.

Withey replaced Adeline Hopper who, with her son, Alan, served as caretakers for 10 years.

"She knew how to run the place, and did the job well," Withey said. "When she left, I expressed interest in contributing my talents to the mansions, but in a more specific capacity."

Withey, who has served on the board of Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion which was founded in 1974, was also chairman for five years, longer than anyone else. As an interior decorator, historic preservation consultant and floral designer, Withey is also president of the Bay Country Rose Society, a post he has held for the past three years.

In addition he serves as a lecturer on historical subjects, antiques and horticulture as well as classical music.

"I think it was a combination of my previous contributions and current interests that were considered in my selection," he said. "I know eight other candidates were interviewed, after advertisements were placed in publications of Preservation Maryland and the Maryland Historic Trust, and I was selected because the board knew I knew my stuff and loved the house."

Had fate been kinder in years past, it is quite possible the stately mansion would have been Withey's home.

"My father, Bob, and I use to buy antiques from the late Dorothy Garber who had a shop here from 1949 to 1971. In the early 1960s my father heard Dorothy was considering selling the house and asked her the price.

"It was too high, and though she eventually sold it for just about half what she had been asking, my father purchased Bound's Lott near Allen, and we spent years restoring it. She sold the house to the city, which still owns it," he said.

Between his duties as curator, Withey books weddings, receptions, seminars, meetings, luncheons and tours, proceeds of which support the operation and maintenance of the only early home to escape two fires that nearly destroyed the city during the late 19th century.

"People think because the mansion is owned by the city, we get all

See CURATOR, page E2

Times Photo by Brice Stump

Poplar Hill Mansion Curator Rob Withey stands beside a marker noting highlights in the restoration history of the 1805 house.

11/4/90

the money we want. All the furnishings in this house are either on loan or acquired by Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion," Withey said.

"The organization is a non-profit group, established by the city to supervise and maintain the house. The organization was chartered by the city and they pay me; I am not an employee of Salisbury.

"As curator I want to upgrade the furnishings, and develop a boxwood garden maze," he said. "There are many projects I would like to see started and completed, like installing air conditioning in the second floor and acquire less reproduction pieces and more period furnishings for the house."

Poplar Hill Mansion is open Sundays 1 to 4 p.m., free of charge, and weekday appointments can be made with a $1.50 per person admission charge. The mansion is closed Mondays. For information call Withey at (301) 749-1776.

Salisbury

$190,000 to be spent on bridge, sewers 2/24/91

SALISBURY — The city of Salisbury will spend $190,000 in bond revenues on the construction of Memorial Plaza Bridge near Salisbury City Park, as well as for building sewer and water lines to the future East Naylor Mill Road area.

The money, which was obtained from a 1986 sale of bonds, was to be used for the installation of sewer and water lines at the proposed Connelly Mill Industrial Park.

Wicomico County officials have delayed getting easements to build roads to the site because of a lack of funds.

Plotts told the Salisbury City Council Monday night that a new Memorial Plaza Bridge should be open by the end of April.

Water mains to be flushed

4/5/90

SALISBURY — The city of Salisbury has had considerable success with its semi-annual water main flushing program in recent years, a city spokesman said. By a programmed system of flushing all public mains at approximately 750 hydrants, the water distributing system can be effectively cleared of most of the corrosion sediment which would otherwise find its way into the consumer's plumbing fixtures.

To minimize inconvenience, the Department of Public Works will flush the system at night — ordinarily between 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. There will be no interruption of service while this is in progress, however, some discoloration of the water supply can occur. If discoloration occurs, it should clear up quickly and clearing can be facilitated by letting a faucet run for a short while.

If discoloration persists, call the City Service Center at (301) 548-3177.

The process begins Friday.

Times Photo by Cathy Collier

FOND MEMORIES. Salisbury Department of Public Works employees Joe Calloway, left, and Donald Russell, exchange gifts and laughs at a retirement luncheon hosted in their honor Wednesday at the City Service Center.

Co-workers bid Public Works jobs farewell after '59' years

By CATHY COLLIER
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — Surrounded by co-workers, friends and family, Donald Russell and Joe Calloway said goodbye to the Salisbury Department of Public Works at a retirement luncheon Wednesday.

Between them, the two have worked for the city for 59 years, and have trained many of the employees who wished them well Thursday at the City Service Center on Lake Street.

Calloway, who turns 65 next month, began his career in 1957, as a water plant operator. Over the next 33 years, he climbed the ranks and is retiring as superintendent.

"Retirement is sometimes a little happy, sometimes a little sad," Calloway said as he looked over the crowd. "You hate to leave all of the fellows you've worked with."

Russell has worked for the city since 1964. His first job was in the carpentry department and he quickly moved to the street department. He has remained there ever since, and is leaving as the street foreman.

"I'm going to be doing a whole lot of 'honey do's,'' Russell joked as he glanced at his wife. "You know, 'Honey do this, or honey do that.'"

The two men sat back as city officials, including Mayor W. Paul Martin and City Council President Robin R. Cockey, and numerous other friends and co-workers presented them with plaques and gifts.

Some of the gifts included street signs with their last names printed on them, gold watches, remote controlled dump trucks and steam shovels. Their wives were presented work orders with instructions on how to fill them out properly to put their husbands to work.

Calloway and Russell also exchanged presents, on the day they had been looking forward to for years. "Over the years we talked about retiring together," Calloway said. "He's always been there when I needed him."

City water tank to be drained, cleaned

5/8/90

SALISBURY — The water storage tank on College Avenue and South Tower Drive will be cleaned Thursday at 1:30 p.m. by the Salisbury Department of Public Works.

The tank draining and cleaning will take six hours, from 1:30 to 7:30 p.m. It will take about 7 hours to refill the tank, from 7:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m.

No interruptions to water service are expected. However, minor and gradual water pressure changes will occur throughout the potable water distribution system.

Cypress St. block to be closed

10/23/90

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday night gave final approval to block off the portion of Cypress Street between West Main Street and Route 50 to accommodate Perdue Farms Inc.

Officials from Perdue requested the closure in order to prevent accidents on Cypress Street. Over the years several accidents have occurred as trucks backed in and out of the poultry processing plant, a company spokesman said.

More than 100 vehicles come in and out of that plant each day and it is becoming a traffic hazard to keep the street open, the spokesman said.

Perdue is the only business on that portion of the road and the closure will not block access to any other business or residences.

Waiver of fees for museum denied

11/29/90

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday night denied a request to waive almost $70,000 in sewer and water fees for the new Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, but agreed to consider a sizable donation when the 1992 budget is drafted.

Mayor W. Paul Martin recommended making a donation to the museum in lieu of waiving certain fees that the city historically has not waived for non-profit organizations.

Marshall Moore, chairman of the board of directors of the Ward Foundation, told the council all 20 board members recently signed personal guarantees toward $600,000 to begin construction of the museum.

The museum, which is being built on land on South Schumaker Drive donated by the city, is expected to be completed by this time next year.

Salisbury cracking down on trash violators

By CATHY COLLIER 1/29/91
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — Beginning next Monday, the city of Salisbury will begin enforcing a garbage law that could fine residents and businesses that don't properly dispose of their trash.

Garbage must be placed at the curb or behind the sidewalk in any container that doesn't leak, according to Tom Plotts, director of public works.

That includes metal garbage cans of 20 gallons or less, plastic bags of 30 gallons or less, and automated containers.

What the city is trying to avoid is trash placed in cardboard boxes or bags that are torn, leaving trash on the sidewalk and street, Plotts said.

The new law was approved by the Salisbury City Council last year to help make trash collection more efficient, Plotts said. "It's not just an inconvenience anymore. It's costing the city money in overtime," he said, since trash collectors have to spend so much time picking up pieces of trash.

During the first month, trash collectors will be issuing warning notices, beginning March 1, the notices will carry fines. For a first violation, a resident, business or apartment complex will be issued a $25 fine, in addition to a $50 administrative fee. A second violation will result in a $50 fine plus the fee, and a third violation will result in a $75 fine plus the fee. Fines that are not collected will be prosecuted as a misdemeanor.

If a residence is in violation, a special trash crew will be dispatched to the area, and leave a notice posted. The city finance department will then be notified to send a bill to the property owner, Plotts said.

The city will continue the special bulk trash pickup every Wednesday. Residents who have such trash, including furniture, tree limbs or other large items, must call the Department of Public Works at (301) 548-3170 before noon each Tuesday.

Salisbury
Early trash pickups begin

7/23/91

SALISBURY — Salisbury public works crews began picking up trash at 4:30 a.m. Monday — several hours earlier than usual — and will continue the early morning pickups indefinitely, according to Chuck Turbanic, general superintendent of public works.

Residents should put their trash out the night before the scheduled pickup, after 6 p.m., he said.

The earlier hours allow garbage crews some relief during the summer heat, and will be more efficient for the county landfill because the trash will be delivered earlier, he said.

Those who already have the city-issued 95-gallon trash container — residents south of the U.S. Route 50 and Route 13 intersection — are required to use them, he said. Those who haven't are required to put their trash in bags or in containers with lids.

Tamarac residents win trash battle

11/91

By CATHY COLLIER
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — Homeowners in Tamarac Village will meet with city public works officials tonight to work out the arrangements of individual trash pickup at the townhouse development.

The Salisbury City Council decided Monday night to try individual pickup at the multifamily development on Beaglin Park Drive, despite the city's policy to provide dumpsters at such sites.

Public Works Director Thomas Plotts said it would cost the city $4,000 to provide each homeowner with an individual automated container and $12,000 a year in manpower costs.

The residents also have nowhere to store the containers, since there are no sideyards such as in a duplex, Plotts said.

Tamarac Village is the last multifamily development to be phased into the automated trash pickup system, which should be citywide by Jan. 1.

About 40 Tamarac Village residents came to the council meeting to ask the city to reconsider its policy. They said they pay city taxes for trash pickup and deserve to be treated like every other homeowner in the city.

"Will there be a tax rebate to Tamarac Village?" resident John DiCarlo asked.

Residents feared their property values would decline with the planned 28 dumpsters, and raised concerns about smell and rodents the trash containers might attract.

Mayor W. Paul Martin said the development is unique because the developer never planned for bulk trash pickup and the planning and zoning commission never realized it wasn't in the plans.

The public works department also never realized it was missing from the plans.

"Because of some error on planning and zoning's part, it's a shame to clutter it up with dumpsters unless it's absolutely necessary," Martin said.

"If I lived there I wouldn't want dumpsters," Councilwoman Jill Barbon said.

Councilman S. Norman Holland Jr., who serves on the planning and zoning commission, was absent from the meeting.

NEWS IN BRIEF

9/91

Salisbury
Salisbury amends garbage ordinance

SALISBURY — Churches and some non-profit agencies have won the right to have free trash pickup in the city of Salisbury.

The Salisbury City Council passed on second reading an amendment to the garbage ordinance which changes the previous policy of collecting residential trash only.

Although Tom Plotts, director of public works, said the policy change would cost about $25,000 in the first year, council members argued the groups contribute substantially to city in the form of social services.

Churches and non-profit groups will have to apply for the service through the public works office and can do so by calling (301) 548-3177.

New construction announced by city

2/14/91

SALISBURY — Starting Feb. 18, the city of Salisbury Department of Public Works will begin construction of water and sewer mains to serve Salisbury Market Place, a shopping center located at the intersection of Regency Drive and Snow Hill Road.

The work will begin at the intersection of Beaglin Park Drive and Snow Hill Road and will proceed along the east side of Snow Hill Road approximately 1,100 feet to the project site.

Construction in the intersection of Beaglin Park Drive and Snow Hill Road will take place between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. westbound traffic on Beaglin Park Drive, between South Schumaker Drive and Snow Hill Road will be detoured during this nighttime work (approximately three nights), a spokesman for the city said.

The total construction project is expected to take eight weeks to complete. Access to local businesses in the construction area will be maintained at all times, the spokesman said.

5/15/91

Water mains to be cleaned in Salisbury

SALISBURY — The city of Salisbury will be flushing water mains May 22 through May 25 and residents may experience some water discoloration, said Thomas D. Plotts, director of public works.

The flushing will occur between 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. to rid the system of corrosive sediment that would otherwise find its way into household plumbing.

There will be no interruption in water service, but if water discoloration occurs, the line may be cleared by letting a faucet run for a short while, Plotts said. If discoloration persists, call the City Service Center at (301) 548-3177.

Trash pickups may be resumed

8/13/91

SALISBURY — Churches and other non-profit organizations may soon have their trash pickups resume. The pickups ended early this year when the city council decided to enforce laws against non-residential trash pickups.

But at Monday's city council meeting, area church leaders opposed the change, saying they pay as much as $500 a year for trash pickup which strains their budgets.

Council members questioned the constitutionality of a plan that would begin the service to churches and decided the amended trash pickup code should include non-medical, non-profit groups.

That proposal will be read to the council Aug. 26.

Funds earmarked for bulkheading

6/12/91

SALISBURY — A surplus in Community Block Development grant funds awarded to bulkhead around the former G&K Warehouse building, will mean another section of the river will benefit.

The Salisbury City Council voted to use the extra $73,000 to bulkhead 65 feet of river frontage behind the Central Salisbury Revitalization Association on Market Street.

Times Photo by Tracy Myrup

Cruising on the creek

Paddle boaters enjoy a leisurely ride as they slowly make their way on Beaverdam Creek in Salisbury City Park.

Two City Park bridges are replaced

By CATHY COLLIER
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — Tom Plotts figures there must be at least 3,000 people a day who use the footbridge in the City Park here, given the number of complaints his office received while the bridge was under repair.

"I would have said it was fairly light (traffic) up until now, but it must have been tremendous," the director of public works for the city joked.

Two bridges to Picnic Island have been replaced with pre-fabricated bridges from a Greenville, Ala., company at a cost to the city of $40,000, Plotts said.

The second bridge serves as the main entrance to Picnic Island from Beaver Dam. While the vehicular bridge is closed to private vehicle traffic, it was built strong enough to support public works vehicles, Plotts said.

The third bridge in the area, which crosses the river between

See BRIDGES, page 4

Times Photo by Todd Dudi

NEW BRIDGE. Roger Wolfsperger of Salisbury walks across one of two new bridges that were completed recently in Salisbury City Park.

BRIDGES, from page 1

Picnic Island and the Salisbury Zoo, will likely have to be replaced in about three years, Plotts said. A weight limit sign was posted at the bridge last year.

All of the bridges were about 60 years old and have deteriorated over the years. They are not worth repairing because the wooden pile foundations have rotted, Plotts said.

"It's not just a matter of cosmetics; they've served their useful life," he said.

The Memorial Plaza Bridge, closed since last summer, should be replaced by the end of August. The state Department of Natural Resources has told the city it must wait until after the fish spawning season to begin installation of the new $150,000 bridge.

"All we're waiting for now is the fish to get done and we can go to work," Plotts said. Construction should begin June 15.

That bridge, which has also generated many complaints from city residents, has been delayed because of the need to obtain state permits.

Salisbury 1/20/91

Public Works to be closed Monday

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Department of Public Works is closed Monday in honor of Martin Luther King Day.

There will be no trash pickup that day, and residents who normally have their trash picked up on that day will have to wait until Thursday.

City reclaims part of street 10/15/91

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council voted Monday to reclaim a portion of Locust Terrace it had closed and given to an adjacent property owner.

The land, a 1,054-square foot parcel located near the cul-de-sac on Locust Terrace, was described by City Solicitor Robert A. Eaton as "a constant problem in maintanence."

The city gave the property to the late Richard A. Gallis, who had opposed the original action. The family of Gallis requested the city reclaim the property, saying the city passed on one of its problems to them when it gave them the lot, Eaton said.

Salisbury 10/15/91

Land given to 2 residents

SALISBURY — Two city residents received free land Monday when the city council voted to give them the titles to land not needed in the construction of Waverly Drive.

Daniel Ulm and Ralph C. Bennett requested that they be able to incorporate the leftover city land into their properties. Director of Public Works Thomas D. Plotts said the parcels offered no building potential and were of no value to the city.

Ulm and Benedict must reserve a 10 foot-wide area the city can reclaim for utility construction or future road widening, Plotts said.

Portion of Locust Terrace reopened 10/3/91

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council gave final approval Monday night to the reopening of a portion of Locust Terrace, a reversal of an earlier decision by the same board.

The city had agreed to close the street about a year ago because it had become a maintenance burden. The city had a right of way to build a road if necessary, and occasionally maintained the steep grassy area beyond the cul-de-sac.

Neighbors had complained the city wasn't keeping it well maintained, so the city abandoned the right of way claim leaving the property owners responsible.

No parking zone is established

SALISBURY — A 50-foot no parking zone was established at ~~308~~ North Blvd., to enable a school bus access to pick up a handicapped student.

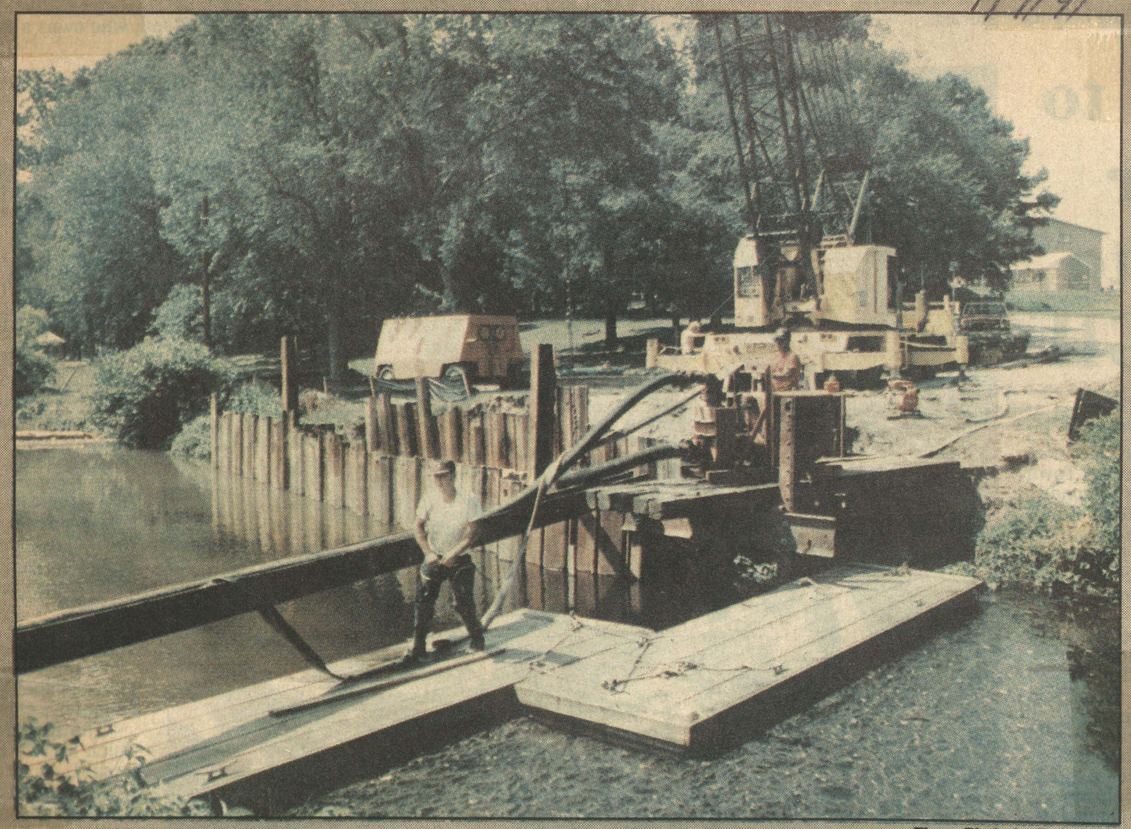
The Salisbury City Council approved the parking request Monday night.

Council agrees to restrict parking

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council this week agreed to restrict parking on the entire north side of Wicomico Street from Camden Avenue to Riverside Drive.

The street varies in width and most of the homes have off-street parking available, said Thomas Plotts, director of public works.

7/9/91



Times Photo by Todd Dudek

BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION. Chuck Godwin, left, and Burt White of Smith Brothers Construction of Galesville work on the replacement bridge for the Memorial Plaza Bridge off South Park Drive in Salisbury City Park.

Park bridge being built

Due to reopen in August; second span to close

By TRACY MYRUP
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — One local bridge will reopen and another will probably close in August.

Memorial Plaza Bridge on Memorial Park Drive east of the main entrance to the Salisbury Zoo is scheduled to open in mid-August, ending more than a year of detours for motorists.

The Parker Pond bridge on North Schumaker Drive will be closed to traffic sometime in late summer and will remain shut down for about six months while a new bridge and spillway are constructed.

Work on the new Memorial Plaza Bridge across Beaverdam Creek began June 17 and should take between six and eight weeks to complete. A prefabricated bridge will be attached to concrete abutments at each side of the creek, said Chuck Turbanic, operations superintendent for Salisbury's Department of Public Works.

The 40-year-old wooden bridge near the Salisbury Zoo was closed June 29, 1990, after a Baltimore consulting agency told the city there were significant structural problems.

"It was unsafe — it wouldn't carry the load," Turbanic said.

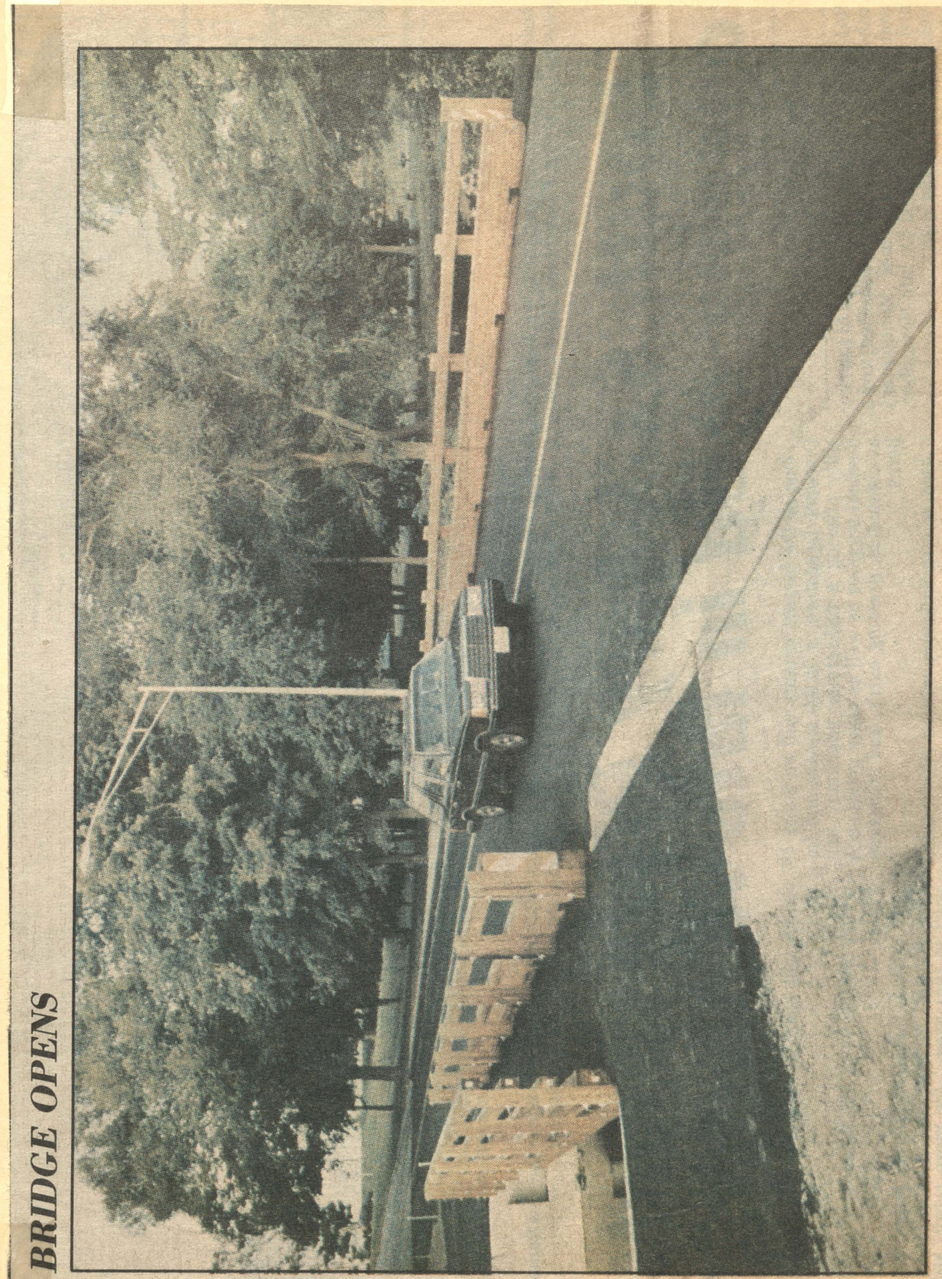
About 1,000 cars travel over the bridge every day — many more than the small span was built to handle.

The Parker Pond bridge, built in 1945 and once privately owned, is being replaced because it does not meet county and state standards, Wicomico Roads Engineer C. Kirk Banks said. Many motorists use the bridge and it is inadequate. The new bridge will be 22 feet wide, while the current bridge is 16 feet wide.

"The bridge will be taken out of service. They'll just have to use Johnson Road and Gunby Road," he said.

The project will cost $250,000 to $300,000. The state will cover about 55 percent of the expenses and Wicomico County will pay the rest, Banks said.

The bid was awarded last week to Jones Brothers of Galesville, Md., the same firm that is working on Memorial Plaza Bridge, Banks said.



Times Photo by Joey Gardner

BRIDGE OPENS

The Memorial Plaza Bridge, located on Memorial Park Drive east of the main entrance to the Salisbury Zoo, was opened for traffic Wednesday, ending more than a year of detours for motorist. The new bridge is 22 feet wide and has a walkway for pedestrian traffic. The new bridge, which is used by about 1,000 vehicles a day, replaces the old wooden bridge that was built in 1945 and no longer met county and state engineering standards.

10/10/91

City OKs developer impact charges

By CATHY COLLIER
Daily Times Staff Writer

7/23/91

SALISBURY — A set of impact fees for new construction in Salisbury was given final approval by the Salisbury City Council Monday night, despite a report by one developer who said it could raise the price of a new home by more than $5,700.

But Thomas Plotts, director of public works for the city, said it makes more sense for new home buyers and developers to bear the brunt of those costs than force every city resident to pay.

Impact fees would help pay for the cost of providing sewer and water to new homes and businesses, and upgrades to the city's sewer and water facilities. The fees are assessed to developers at the time certain permits are obtained, and then generally passed onto the new home buyer.

Plotts said the city needs $22 million to expand the sewer and water facilities to meet the needs of the city's future growth.

If that amount had to be raised through sewer and water rates, an average four-bedroom home would be charged an additional $86 a year.

The city has already pledged its existing sewer and water capacity for developments already in the planning stages. If all of those developments were built within the next two years, the city's capacity would be gone.

"If we don't pass these fees, we would have to declare a moratorium" on new construction projects, said Salisbury Executive Officer Patrick J. Fennell.

Another alternative would be to go to the bond market, which would deplete the city's bonding capacity of $23 million, and require a 30 percent increase in sewer and water rates, Plotts said.

Depleting the bond capacity could also lower the city's bond rating, Mayor W. Paul Martin said, and would mean no other capital improvement projects could be constructed over the next 15 years.

But developer John W. Causey said he favored a tax increase instead of heavy fee increases carried on the backs of developers. "I'm not saying part of this isn't necessary, but you should consider some sort of tax increase."

Causey said residents who already live in the city will benefit by new city residents because of an increased tax base, more sewer and water capacity and a better quality of life.

"I've paid mine and I don't want to pay yours," Martin said. "You either pay for it or you don't get it."

With this new law, the city will charge developers on a case-by-case basis, according to the size of homes, and the density of the development.

The city council also approved a five-year capital improvement plan for the expansion of the water supply and sewage treatment system.

Money transfer ordinance approved

8/13/91

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday approved the first draft of an ordinance which would transfer $166,100 from the Water and Sewer Depreciation Reserve Account to the Wastewater Treatment Plant EPA Improvements Account.

The money will be used to refund the improvements account.

The plan will be voted on again in two weeks.

Impact fees must remain

3/10/92

By CATHY COLLIER
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — The city of Salisbury cannot exempt certain new developments from impact fees just because they may achieve some public policy goal, a consultant told the City Council Monday night.

Impact fees are assessed to new developments to help pay for the expansion of sewer and water services to that area. Previously, all city residents helped pay for the expansion of the infrastructure.

The city's ordinance establishing impact fees, which was adopted last July, had a provision exempting new developments that provide such things as affordable housing, the elimination of blighted areas or businesses that provide new jobs.

But Paul Tiburzi, a Baltimore expert on impact fees the city hired to review the ordinance, said all developers must be treated alike. The city can help those projects by other means, such as through tax credits or grant applications, he said.

"We wanted to get a second opinion because this is going to be real important to the long run water and sewer policy of the city," City Solicitor Robert A. Eaton said.

Other changes to the city's ordinance included outlining the formula for charging the fees so developers can calculate for themselves how much they will be charged.

The refund procedure was also clarified, which allows the developer to recover the fees if the city hasn't spent the money in 10 years.

Resident complains of water quality

1/29/91

SALISBURY — A North Park Drive resident went before the Salisbury City Council with a pot of brown water to complain that his water is not drinkable.

Jules Powell was hoping the council would exempt him from paying his $84 water bill since his family doesn't drink the water. He also said the water stains clothes in the washing machine, and they have to let it run for a long time to take a shower.

City Public Works Director Tom Plotts said his employees have checked the water main, removed his water meter and checked the line in the street, but have not found the problem.

The council said the problem exists all over the city from time to time, and it would set a bad precedent to abate his bill. They did offer to abate a $4 finance charge that had accrued, but Powell declined the help.

Salisbury impact fees challenged

6/14/92

Frustrated cafe owners appealing added costs

By RICK THORNTON
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — The owners of two local restaurants will argue on Monday that the impact fees the city is forcing them to pay are much too high.

Russell and Shirley Horne are being charged $5,085 by the city to build a deck outside their restaurant, Goin' Nuts Cafe. Jim Coffman had to pay $3,000 worth of impact fees before he could open his restaurant, the Plaza Cafe.

Both the Hornes and Coffman have appeal hearings before the Salisbury City Council at an 8 p.m. special meeting Monday.

An impact fee is a one-time cost collected from people who build in Salisbury and require water and sewer service.

The fees, which have been charged since July 1991, raise money for improvements to the city's waste water treatment plant that will be necessary in order to handle future growth.

Salisbury City Council President Robin Cockey said the treatment plant has nearly reached its capacity and that impact fees were a way to get users of city services to bear a fair share of the projected cost of the plant's expansion.

According to Public Works Director Tom Plotts, expansion will cost well over $20 million. To date, the city has collected about $300,000 in impact fees, Plotts said.

When the impact fee ordinance was adopted the council attached to it conditions of relief whereby the fee could be reduced or waived under special circumstances, Cockey said.

But the council was later told by legal counsel the relief conditions had to be dropped and that has delayed his project by as much as two months.

"This has been a frustrating experience," Horne said. "I'm not used to dealing with government. I'm used to the private sector where things get done."

Coffman said he was charged the same impact fee as restaurants that are open 18 hours a day. Coffman's cafe is open weekdays between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Coffman also said meters indicate his business uses only one-sixth of the water the city estimated the restaurant would use daily.

The impact fees issue has been further clouded by confusion over exactly who is responsible for notifying developers about the charge, Cockey said.

"We're (council) distressed to see some of the hardships that have resulted from the way impact fees are being applied," Cockey said.

A third appeal scheduled Monday night was postponed when Pete Engler, owner of Nacho Pete's, said he was unable to attend. Engler has been charged an impact fee of nearly $7,000 for a new dining area he added to his restaurant.

Work on the new Memorial Plaza Bridge across Beaverdam Creek began

The Parker Pond bridge, built in 1945

same turn that is working on memorial Plaza Bridge, Banks said.

Salisbury may return impact fees

6/22/92

By RICK THORNTON
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — The city could soon be returning more than $300,000 to local builders if an impact fees ordinance passed a year ago is overturned by the City Co ncil tonight.

But while it isn't certain what the council's decision will be, it is assured Salisbury residents will have the opportunity to speak their mind about the disputed impact fees issue at tonight's 8 o'clock meeting.

The fees, which have been charged since July 1991, raise money for improvements to the city's waste water treatment plant that will be necessary in order to handle future growth. The treatment plant has nearly reached its capacity, and impact fees were thought to be a way to get users of city services to bear a fair share of the estimated $20 million needed for expansion.

But since the law was passed many have argued the impact fees are inequitable. Last week two restaurant owners appeared before the City Council to appeal thousands of dollars worth of impact fees.

Council President Robin Cockey said the board will make a decision on those two appeals tonight. The council will also make a determination on the fate of the ordinance, he said.

The council may well favor repealing the ordinance since only one of its five members was in office last year when the impact fees law was passed. Bob Caldwell, Bob Gladden and Tim Sakemiller were recently elected to the council and Mary Pinkett was appointed last year after the death of a former councilwoman.

If the ordinance is appealed, Cockey said the council could take the time to draft a more fair impact fees law.

According to Caldwell, the city is limited in the ways it can generate money for waste water expansion. Law prohibits municipalities from using property taxes for the water and sewer fund, Caldwell said.

That leaves the city with three alternatives — to raise user fees, to implement impact fees, or to borrow the money and pay the debt service on more than $20 million.

The impact fees issue has been further clouded by confusion over who is responsible for notifying builders about the charge.

The appeals heard last week by the council involve Goin' Nuts Cafe which faces a $5,085 impact fee before an outdoor deck can be added on, and Coffman's Plaza Cafe which was charged $3,000 before opening last month.

Overturning of impact fees could encourage new construction

6/25/92

By RICK THORNTON
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — City officials here hope that the decision to overturn an impact fees law will prompt a building boom in Salisbury that may jump-start the area economy.

Earlier this week, the Salisbury City Council voted to repeal an impact fees ordinance that was called unfair by many builders. The law sought to raise money for future expansion of the city's water and sewer system which is estimated to cost more than $20 million.

With that ordinance struck down, the council will now draft a more equitable plan to charge impact fees. New legislation could be passed and put in effect by Jan. 1, 1993.

But for now building permits can be obtained absent any impact fee looming overhead, something that some said should spur development.

"Anyone thinking about building would be absolutely foolish not to do it now since the fees are off until the end of the year," Councilman Bob Caldwell said.

Council President Robin Cockey said there are expectations that the city will see somewhat of a "building boom" in the coming months. That, he said, would be "good for Salisbury."

According to Pete Peterson, building inspector for the city, once a building permit is obtained construction must begin within 45 days.

"It (a building permit) is not an investment for the future," he said. "They must act on it."

Meanwhile, councilmembers said they want to make sure the new impact fees ordinance is clear about whose job it is to notify builders of the added cost.

Cockey and Public Works Director Tom Plotts have both said it was Peterson, the building inspector, who was responsible for informing builders of the fee when they request a permit. Cockey said that for some reason Peterson's department "just wasn't doing it."

Although Peterson acknowledged that it was his responsibility, he said rather than "point fingers" the city had agreed to focus its attention on coming up with a more effective way to administer the fees.

"And we'll have that," Peterson said.

Salisbury abandons its impact fees ordinance

10/27/92

By RICK THORNTON
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — A controversial impact fees ordinace was pronounced "legally dead" by the president of the Salisbury City Council late Monday.

The council decided not to pass an ordinance that would have charged fees to those who require new water and sewer service in order to pay for wastewater treatment plant expansion.

The decision apparently ended two years of arguing over whether impact fees are the best way to pay for water and sewer expansion that will be made necessary by future growth.

For more than an hour city residents pleaded with the council not to vote for impact fees. Still, Councilman Bob Caldwell moved the ordinance — which he helped draft — be passed. Councilman Bob Gladden seconded the motion.

At that point Councilman Tim Sakemiller exploded, saying the council was acting "irresponsibly." Sakemiller said he favored increasing water user rates substantially rather than enacting impact fees. Sakemiller's idea won approval from many in the audience.

Gladden then withdrew his second, and the impact fees ordinance died when no other council member seconded the motion.

Impact fees were first passed by the City Council in July 1991. That law was overturned less than a year later after builders objected.

New impact fees ordinance introduced

9/15/92

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday introduced a new impact fees ordinance that spreads the cost charged to those building in the city over a five-year period.

In June the City Council struck down an impact fees law after it was called unfair by several business owners who appealed the fees charged them. Councilman Bob Caldwell and Public Works officials drafted the new law, which is designed to raise money needed for expansion of the city's water and sewer system.

During an hour-long public hearing many city residents said independent homeowners still would have trouble paying thousands of dollars in impact fees. The ordinance will be voted on again by the council on Sept. 28 and, if passed, will take effect Jan. 1, 1993.

Impact fee law should have passed

Editor Of The Times:

It was distressing to see the Salisbury City Council abdicate its responsibility last week, and neglect to enact an impact fee ordinance which would have assured the viability of our water system and waste water treatment plant.

It was particularly distressing because the alternative offered was to raise water and sewer rates for all users, regardless of any hardships imposed.

Histrionic charges notwithstanding, an impact fee system neither creates separate classes of taxpayers nor fosters division within the community. Rather, the charges are a means of fairly apportioning the cost of required capital improvements between the new user, who is not responsible for the need, and by users of the system at large, but in proportion to the benefit received.

I consider it to be the height of unfairness to ask all users, including current businesses as well as those minimum users who might be on fixed income, to shoulder the burden of providing the additional service for new development.

I feel that the formula proposed, which did split the cost and based the charge on metered use over a five-year period, was extremely fair. However, it was not approved, so a new look is required.

I intend to continue to push to make sure that Salisbury's citi-

*

zens are not unfairly forced to bear the total cost of development. Toward that end, I will propose that an independent committee, selected by the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce, be appointed to investigate various means of providing the funds to make the required capital improvements to our system, and report back to council.

Perhaps by using this method, and removing the process from the arena of political considerations, we can get an unbiased view.

Robert M. Caldwell
City Councilman
Salisbury

11/6/92

Chloride leaks at waste water plant

8/12/91

SALISBURY — An estimated 100 to 200 gallons of ferric chloride leaked out of the Salisbury Waste Water Treatment Plant here Sunday, a Salisbury Fire Department spokesman said.

The chemical leak was reported by the plant manager about 5:30 p.m. and the fire department began a hazardous material spill operation and closed a nearby portion of the Wicomico River for about an hour, the spokesman said.

Since the chemical is considered water soluble by the Maryland Department of the Environment, a cleanup effort was not necessary, the spokesman said.

Salisbury hears expansion ideas

6/26/91

By CATHY COLLIER
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — City planners began to map out Salisbury's future Tuesday night, and discuss what areas of Wicomico County are most likely to be annexed next.

Southern and western areas outside of the city were designated for residential development and some commercial growth, while the northern area would be annexed for industrial development.

A section east of the city, near U.S. Route 50 and Hobbs Road, was marked for the future development of a minor league baseball stadium. The city has discussed with chicken magnate Frank Perdue the possibility of a baseball franchise coming to Salisbury, but nothing is official, City Executive Officer Patrick J. Fennell said.

The city can continue to grow at current rates for three to five years before sewer and water facilities will need to be expanded, said Tom Plotts, director of public works for Salisbury.

If expansion of the infrastructure begins now, it will cost about $22 million — a bargain by most accounts — to double capacity for both services, Plotts said. Due to new technology, what experts said would cost $15 to $18 million to expand sewer capacity just a few years ago, now will only cost $8 million, Plotts said.

A large portion of money can come from impact fees which the city council is now considering, Plotts said. At a council meeting Monday night, developers said they haven't had ample time to study the fees, which would be levied on new homes or businesses annexed into the city, but some opposed them because they may drive up the cost of housing.

If the fees are approved, which the council will decide by the end of July, Plotts said the city can collect $7½ to $8 million in the first five years that could go toward sewer and water expansion.

Mayor W. Paul Martin urged that the city continue to grow, and grow responsibly. He said he has been criticized over the years for his aggressive approach toward annexation, but that attitude has paid off in the form of lower tax rates and better services for city resi-

See PLANNING, page 3

PLANNING , from page 1

dents.

"The lifeblood of a community ... depends on the ability to service it. No matter what you do, if you don't have the capacity to service it, it's no good," he said.

"The attitude of 'we've grown enough' — I don't believe that and I won't accept that," he said.

Areas for industrial development include 700 to 800 acres near north of the Northwood Industrial Park, while residential areas include the Rockawalkin and Pemberton Road areas, Gumby Road adjacent to the Spring Chase development, Naylor Mill Road near the proposed bypass, and Snow Hill Road south of College Avenue.

Any county resident who does not want to be annexed, doesn't have to be annexed, the mayor said. The city's policy has been to only annex those who want to be, he said.

City officials will draft a plan for growth in the city, and present it to the council in September. A public hearing will be held then on the city's proposals and the areas of growth.

The idea to map out the city's future was largely due to reaction to the proposed "Maryland 2020" legislation, which government officials claimed would restrict planning efforts at the local level. The legislation, now being studied in summer legislative session, would have designated growth areas for the next 30 years.

"I think it's safe to say that the 'Maryland 2020' efforts scared the daylights out of everyone, particularly those in local government," Livingston said.

The city should take a proactive approach to planning for the future, or somebody else will, said Salisbury-Wicomico Planning and Zoning Commission Chairwoman Corinne Les Callette. She applauded the city's efforts, and agreed with their targeted areas for annexation.

Salisbury

Council repeals impact fee law

3/28/92

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday voted to repeal a controversial impact fee law enacted last year.

The fee was designed to raise some of the estimated $20 million that will be needed to upgrade the city's sewer and water system. An impact fee is a one-time cost charged to people building in the city.

After numerous appeals, the council last month decided to repeal the law and draft a new one that is more equitable. Close to $400,000 collected in impact fees will be returned with interest to city builders beginning Aug. 1.

Work on a new law has already started, and that measure should take effect by Jan. 1, 1993.

Too much retail?

When it comes to retail development, officials in Salisbury must be scratching their heads and asking themselves, "How much is too much?"

In recent years there has been a flood of retail development, and more is being proposed. Older, less competitive stores are either going out of business or moving to newer locations more attractive to shoppers. Vacant retail space is becoming more and more noticeable.

This is a strange situation for Salisbury, which has always relished its role as the hub of Delmarva and the region's retail center. Folks have always gone to Salisbury to shop, and the city and its merchants have always done everything in their power to keep them coming. Shopping has been to Salisbury what the beach is to Ocean City.

That's why we were surprised when the Salisbury City Council recently delayed an annexation request that would have virtually assured construction of a new $18 million shopping center north of the city. In making their decision not to annex the tract, officials expressed concern about a possible glut of retail development in and around the city. Council members said the shopping center would hurt existing retail businesses and create unreasonable traffic conditions in the area north of the city along Route 13 in the vicinity of the new Centre at Salisbury mall.

Council President Robin R. Cockey suggested Salisbury's retail market is becoming overbuilt. Councilman Donald C. Davis went even farther, saying more shopping centers, in the short-term, aren't "in our best interest."

While we sympathize with city officials concerns, we have our own concerns that the principles of competition and capitalism are being somewhat stifled. We always thought it was up to government to encourage economic and business growth — particularly in areas already zoned for such development.

Competition is the foundation of the American free enterprise system. For the consumer, the more competition, the better.

If legitimate physical problems would have been created by the tract's annexation (traffic congestion, etc.) then the council's decision is correct.

But is it up to government to decide that the city already has too much retail space and no more will be let in? We always thought those decisions were made by entrepreneurs will to risk their work and money and the lending institutions which invest in a community.

Revised impact fees ordi

By BEN KLAYMAN
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — In a surprise move, the City Council voted 3-2 to table the revised impact fees ordinance at Monday's meeting here.

Council members Tim Sakemiller, Robert Gladden and Mary Pinkett voted to table the ordinance until an Oct. 19 work session because they felt there were still too many problems with it.

The main problem was an option to pay the impact fee in a one-time lump sum or in quarterly payments over five years.

Impact fees are collected from builders who require water and sewer service from the city. Money raised from the fees is used to improve the city's waste water treatment plant, whi needed for future growth he

Councilman Robert Cald frustration over another pos delay showed before the vot

"By tabling this (ordina we're doing nothing but pro ing the agony," he said.

Gladden responded, "Bu not life or death whethe pass this or not tonight."

By imposing the fees on the money was spent.

The issue had been debated sin and was resolved when HUD rep tives, city staff and Rep. Wayne T rest, R-Md. 1st, sat down toge Washington in June and discussed

Recycling draws cri

Cambridge demands

By CHARLIE MUTH

Work on the new Memorial Plaza Bridge across Beaverdam Creek began

The Parker Pond bridge, built in 1945

same firm that is working on Memorial Plaza Bridge, Banks said.

FREE PARKING DOWNTOWN

Times Photo by Joey Gardner

Joe Chandler, sign technician with the City of Salisbury, hangs one of the signs announcing two hours of free parking for shoppers and visitors in downtown Salisbury. The signs are placed throughout the downtown area directing motorists to the free parking lot on South Division Street.

10/23/91

THE DAILY TIMES

Edward C. White, Publisher and General Manager
Mel Toadvine, Managing Editor
Greg Bassett, Editorial Page Editor

PAGE A12 Salisbury, Md., Sunday, November 17, 1991

No bypass

Given Maryland's financial crisis, it probably shouldn't have been surprising news — but it was. State Department of Transportation officials have indefinitely abandoned plans to build a $50 million Route 50 bypass around Salisbury. That decision means it could be decades before the long-sought bypass is ever built.

Last week's news was a surprise because just a year ago then-DOT Secretary Richard H. Trainor assured local officials the state was committed to the bypass project and that funds had already been designated. However, gasoline taxes have fallen dramatically and some highway funds were used to balance last year's budget. The state's road-building priorities have been significantly shifted. Unless the economy rebounds and gas taxes increase to rebuild the transportation fund, the project may never be completed.

An increase in the gas tax could raise the money, but local legislators are leery of supporting such an increase; the fact that the state has broken its word on building the bypass certainly doesn't guarantee the bypass will be made a priority if new revenues suddenly become available.

What all this means is that traffic in and around Salisbury will only continue to become more congested. Backups on Route 50 will continue, particularly during the summer tourist season and weekends. Decisions which have brought new businesses to north Salisbury were made with the knowledge that a Route 50 bypass was part of the short-term future; without the new highway some of those businesses might not enjoy as much success.

From a planning point of view the shelving of the bypass creates certain headaches. As Wicomico County Planning Director William Livingston put it: "The bypass is essential for laying out the framework for development." Livingston also noted that the state may also forever lose the opportunity to build the bypass because the Naylor Mill Road corridor is bound to develop. Landowners will only wait so long while the state waits to build. The corridor might not be open when the time comes to build.

So the long-awaited bypass is on hold, and with it many of Salisbury's developmental hopes and dreams. This is one of those disappointing decisions we will look back on with regret.

Revitalizing Salisbury's downtown district 11/91

Photo courtesy of City of Salisbury

THEN... The Downtown Plaza was once a thriving artery through downtown Salisbury. This photo was taken during the late 1950s.

Retailers hope to entice shoppers to plaza with free parking plan

By CATHY COLLIER
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — In its heyday in the 1950s, downtown Salisbury had it all. It offered the best places to eat, the best shops, the best movies and the best of times.

Then came the suburbs.

The grocery stores moved, the movie theaters closed, the restaurants relocated and the competition became fierce.

What happened to downtown Salisbury happened in many towns across the country. Strip shopping centers opened and the mall was invented.

Retailers downtown have been trying to figure out how to bring those customers back ever since.

The most recent plan is to offer an hour of free parking in the main lot south of the Downtown Plaza, since many shoppers say having to pay for parking is their biggest complaint.

It will cost 25 cents for the second and third hour, and 50 cents for every hour after that. The person who parks for three hours will actually end up paying 5 cents more than the current rate of 15 cents an hour.

But the idea is to encourage short-term parking, according to Veronique Diriker, executive director of the Central Salisbury Revitalization Association.

Those who plan to stay longer will still be able to get a "Park & Shop" sticker from any merchant which has all along allowed shoppers to park for free.

"It's a big step forward because we've been talking about free parking for years," said Patrick J. Fennell, Salisbury executive officer.

The city hasn't been able to of-

See PLAZA, page 4

Times Photo by Cathy Collier

...NOW. William J. Ahtes, who owns several properties on the Salisbury Downtown Plaza, said he hopes a proposal to offer limited free parking brings more people downtown.

Free Salisbury parking cut 10/27/92

By RICK THORNTON
Daily Times Staff Writer

●Salisbury charter review committee set *Page 2*

SALISBURY — If you've been taking advantage of the two-hour free parking downtown, you'll want to make your trips there a little shorter from now on.

The City Council on Monday decided to reduce free parking time in the downtown lot from two hours to one, effective Nov. 15. Each additional hour of parking will now cost 50 cents.

The Central City District Commission, which maintains the lot, said the change was necessary because the city is losing almost $3,000 in revenues each month by allowing free parking.

The city used to take in about $140 per day in fees from the lot. Since two-hour free parking was put into effect last year, revenues have fallen to $64.50 per day, city figures indicate.

It costs about $61 each day to pay an attendant and to run the ticket machine at the parking lot's entrance.

The Central City District Commission initially decided to ask the council to eliminate free parking downtown entirely. But Palmer Gillis, a local developer chosen to build a gateway leading to the Downtown Plaza, persuaded the commission to allow one hour of free parking.

Gillis said the public was just getting used to the two-hour free parking and suddenly charging people to park in the lot would cause confusion.

But some city officials said the additional parking revenues could be used to pay for a new parking garage that may be needed downtown, since the Plaza is growing as a business and office center.

Members of the Central City District Commission said there often are no spaces available in the lot. Attendants are forced to turn away up to 75 cars per day, leaving many with a bad impression of the downtown, they said.

Some people who work downtown abuse the two-hour free parking rule by driving in and out of the lot during the day to avoid paying any fees, said Parking Administrator Carol Turner.

Bridge across Beaverdam Creek began The Parker Pond bridge, built in 1945 Plaza Bridge, Banks said.

Salisbury upgrades traffic devices

6/6/91

By CATHY COLLIER
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — Newtown residents who are tired of waking up to the sounds of twisting metal because of accidents at the North Division and Isabella streets intersection, may soon be able to rest a little easier.

The city will be replacing the lights at that intersection and installing loop control devices to better control the flow of traffic, said Tom Plotts, director of public works for the city.

The traffic devices have already been installed at the intersection of College Avenue and Eastern Shore Drive and last week city crews worked on the intersection where five roads converge at Mt. Hermon Road and East Main Street.

A magnetic coil is embedded in the pavement and creates a magnetic field. Once a vehicle crosses the magnetic field, a signal is sent to the computer controlling the light and it changes to green within a short period of time — sometimes a few seconds. If no vehicle crosses that field, the light won't change.

The new system will eliminate those lengthy and aggravating waits at traffic lights which will make intersections safer, Plotts said. Traffic will flow more efficiently through intersections, so people will be less likely to act impatiently.

The sensors are not new to the Salisbury area, since the State Highway Administration has installed them at nearly every intersection on Route 13 and Route 50, but they are new to city-maintained streets.

Plotts hopes all intersections where there are traffic lights will be equipped with the sensors in three to five years. Those intersections where most accidents occur will be fixed first, he said. The Newtown intersection should begin after July 1.

Other intersections that will get priority are Snow Hill Road and Main Street, and the West Road,

See TRAFFIC, page 4

Times Photo by Joey Gardner

TRAFFIC PLANS. City of Salisbury employees Chuck Turbanic, left, operations supervisor, and Ray Birch, traffic supervisor, discuss plans for a new traffic control device that will be installed at the intersection of North Division and Isabella streets after July 1.

TRAFFIC, from page 1

Delaware Avenue, Isabella Street intersection.

The city had budgeted $30,000 for the first two intersections that have been changed this year plus some minor changes to other intersections, and next year plans to spend another $30,000 for three to four intersections.

But Plotts said the city saved a lot of money by using public works employees to do the work instead of hiring an outside contractor, and because the city borrowed State Highway equipment.

While the system works well for most automobiles, motorcycles sometimes have trouble triggering the sensor. But Plotts said motorcyclists should just be careful to drive in the center of the lane, and the magnetic field will be broken.

Salisbury

City owes more for auto insurance

8/13/91

SALISBURY — Due to a billing error, the City of Salisbury owes an additional $25,796 for auto insurance.

The city council approved payment of the bill Monday from the Mayor's Contingency Fund and from the contingency funds in the city water and sewer accounts. The city owns 178 vehicles, ranging from passenger cars and trucks to ambulances and fire trucks, and pays almost $250,000 a year in vehicle insurance. The insurance company, Local Government Insurance Trust underestimated the city's bill in February.

Traffic light removal opposed

8/13/91

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday shelved a plan to phase out traffic lights at the intersections of Lincoln Avenue at Spring Street and Lincoln Avenue at Roger Street.

The lights are considered obsolete and traffic flow is too low to warrant the traffic lights, according to Public Works director Thomas Plotts. The replacement cost is estimated at $10,000 per intersection.

But area residents spoke out against the plan, saying the lights are necessary, especially for small children who live in the area. Council President Robin Cockey suggested the council form a standard procedure for dealing with traffic questions before any more questions are put forth.

BUILDING COMES DOWN

Times Photo by Joey Gardner

Escavator operator Howard Landon, a supervisor with the city of Salisbury, is hidden Tuesday behind the rubble of a building being razed on the corner of Lake Street and Route 50.

12/2/91

Christmas trees to be collected

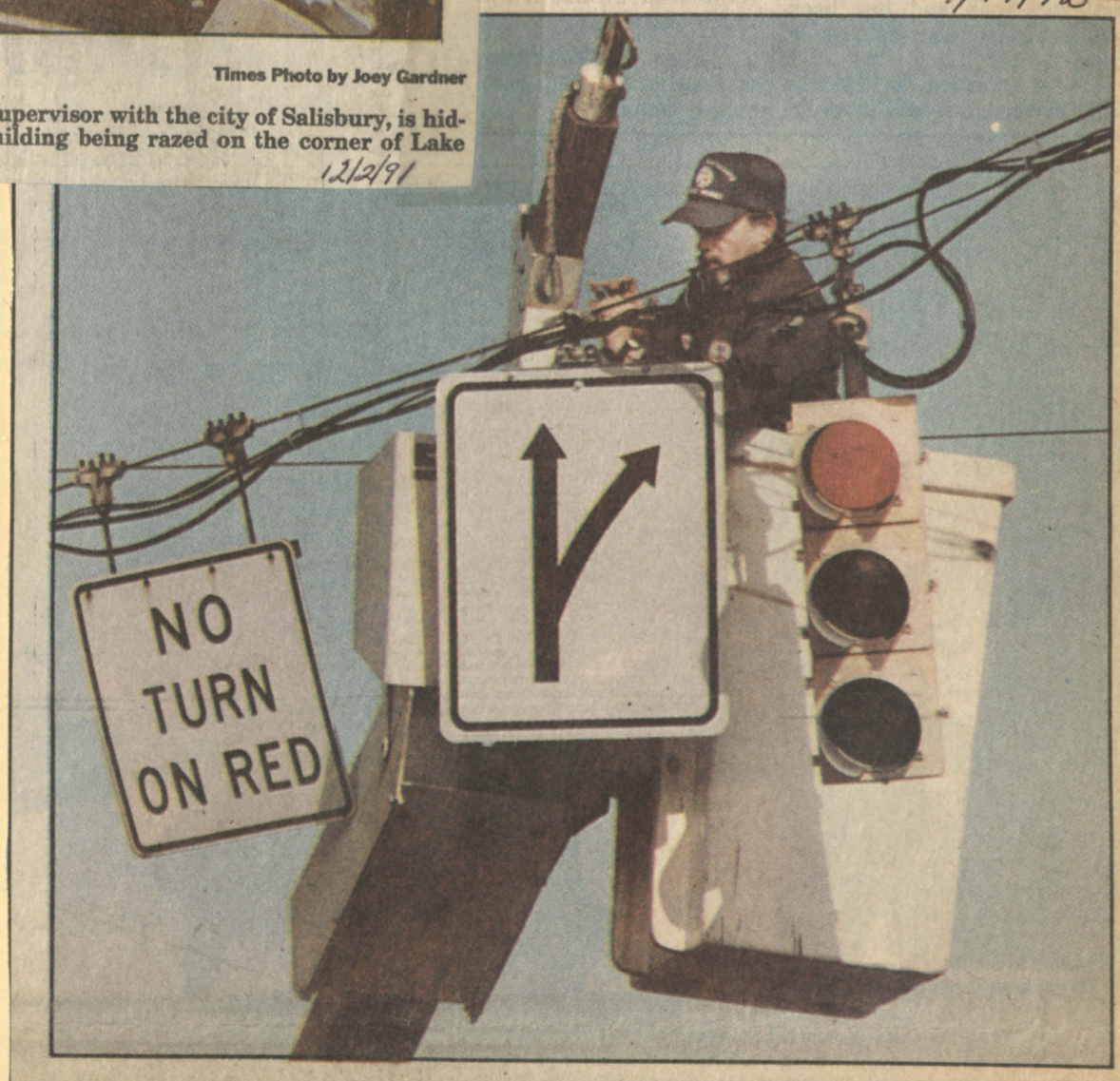
1/8/91

SALISBURY — The city of Salisbury will collect discarded Christmas trees this week and deliver them to Assateague Island to help protect the beach from erosion.

The city is divided into four sections by Route 50 and Route 13.

City crews began picking up trees in the northwest section Monday and will continue to pick trees up in the northeast section today, the southeast section Wednesday and the southwest section on Thursday. On Friday city crews will pick up trees by request.

1/18/92



Times Photo by Todd Dudek

Bruce Barrall, traffic technician with the city of Salisbury, fixes signs after this week's winds at the five-point intersection at Mount Hermon Road in Salisbury Friday.

Bridge across Beaverdam Creek began The Parker Pond bridge, built in 1945 Plaza Bridge, Banks said.

HISTORY REVISITED AT NEWTOWN FESTIVAL

10/4/92

Times Photo by Todd Dudek

James Cantwell's horse and buggy, chauffeured by Greg White, makes its way down Isabella Street in front of the Fred A. Grier House, owned by Travis and Lilian Terrell, during the 18th annual Historic Newtown Festival Saturday in Salisbury. *See story on page A2.*

Salisbury 10/14/92

Restaurant buys parking lot

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday agreed to sell part of a municipal parking lot to the owner of Market Street Inn here.

The parking lot, declared a surplus property by the council in June, is located next to Market Street Inn on the Wicomico River. Market Street Inn owner Mark Reeves will pay $16,322 for approximately 4,000 square feet — the same amount the city bought the property for in 1974.

Reeves plans to use the lot to expand his restaurant. Reeves said the expansion will cause Market Street Inn to employ 10 more people including two full-time positions.

Salisbury 10/28/92

Council declares parking lot surplus

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council Monday declared the remaining portion of a parking lot located next to Market Street Inn a surplus and will accept bids for the property.

Earlier this month the council agreed to sell a portion of the parking lot to Market Street Inn owner Mark Reeves who plans to build an addition to his establishment.

On Monday the council decided to sell the remaining 37,980 square feet of the parking lot. According to City Purchasing Agent Carol Turner, there already has been at least developer interested in buying the property.

The parking lot was purchased by the city in 1974 for approximately $4 per square foot which was the same price Reeves paid for his section.

Lighthizer says Route 50 bypass on back burner

11/19/92

BY RICK THORNTON
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — Maryland Transportation Secretary James Lighthizer told community leaders Tuesday that projects in Montgomery County will come before a Route 50 bypass around Salisbury because lawmakers there supported a recent nickel-a-gallon gas tax.

Lighthizer, who addressed the Wicomico County Rotary Club, said Montgomery County legislators agreed to vote for the 5 cent increase in the gas tax only if their transportation projects were given priority.

"They drove a hard bargain," Lighthizer said. "But we didn't have the votes from the rest of the state."

Shore lawmakers said they opposed the tax increase because they were told in 1987 if they supported a tax hike the Salisbury bypass would be constructed. They voted for the increase but the bypass was delayed.

Lighthizer defended funding Montgomery County transportation projects.

"It's not as if those projects are not needed," he said. "The worst (transportation) problems in the state are there."

Lighthizer said only 3½ cents of the nickel-a-gallon increase will benefit the state's transportation needs. The remainder was allocated to the Washington Area Metropolitan Transit Authority, a move the transportation secretary called unfair.

"That relieved the responsibility from Prince George's and Montgomery counties," he said.

Had the state received the full five cents of the gasoline tax, Lighthizer said the Route 50 bypass around Salisbury "would've been a done deal."

Lighthizer said his department was still exploring ways to generate the funds needed for the bypass.

"We recognize the bypass as an important project," he said. "But I don't want to raise any false hopes."

When questioned, Lighthizer said he did not favor raising the toll of the Bay Bridge to pay for the Salisbury bypass.

"I don't like seeing a toll raised for one particular road," Lighthizer said. "Then I'd have every senator in the state asking to have that done."

Shore lawmakers introduced a bill to raise the Bay Bridge toll last session but the measure was defeated in committee.

Lighthizer also said Tuesday that the state would purchase the land for a bypass if that property were in danger of development.

7/19/92

Monthly trash fee likely

Fewer garbage pickups eyed

By RICK THORNTON
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — A garbage law expected to be passed here later this month will have city residents paying more to have their trash can emptied less often.

The Salisbury City Council plans to enact a $3 per month garbage disposal fee for households in order to raise money needed to offset the increasing tipping fees at the county landfill.

Wicomico County raised tipping fees from $21 to $29 per ton on July 1. The increase will cost Salisbury an extra $300,000 next year. So when Mayor W. Paul Martin mapped out the 1992-93 budget, he proposed the monthly garbage disposal fee as a means for generating extra revenue.

The City Council passed the measure on reading last week. A final vote will be taken 27.

The garbage fees ordinance also calls for collected only once per week beginning in change that upset some at a recent public he

According to Public Works Director To takes about 60 overtime hours for his depart lect the city's trash twice per week. Most aren't filled, he said.

Plotts said each household in Salisbury w one 95-gallon trash can by April 1, the date out of the trash can business."

But landlord Terry Sell, owner of GNI Pro several instances only one can was left for several apartment units. And if that trash

through here all the time, we didn't want to spray. Essenially, we found the plants to e healthier, that's what made s go organic," said Kathy Martin, who co-owns Silver eed Greenhouses with her husband, Jay. The Martins were hosts as nearly a dozen organic farming enthusiasts oured their greenhouses Satrday.

"We bought the first greenouse eight years ago," she aid. Today, they produce thouands of transplants for vegetale growers without the use of hemical pesticides and fertilizrs.

Martins delved into rais-

ORGANIC MUSHROOMS. Jay logs under a canopy of trees d his Bivalve home Saturday.

said. After the logs are cut, the spores are added to the notches and covered with wax. After a year, the logs are soaked with water, stacked and covered. Within nine days, they may be

9/20/92

A kinder, gentler garbage ordinance

Today's "Unclassified" is about garbage.

(Critics should note the word **about** separates a verb and noun in that sentence.)

The Salisbury City Council has adopted what Councilman **Robert Caldwell** calls "a kinder, gentler" garbage ordinance. A divided council passed the final version of the new regulations Monday night after an hour or so of discussion and debate.

The heated exchanges, fiery oratory and political maneuvering were a fitting prelude to the second half of "Monday Night Football."

The previous garbage ordinance was so poorly crafted a Wicomico County judge ruled it was unconstitutional because of its "vicarious liability" provisions.

Here's how that happened. A Salisbury businessman, who is a former public schoolteacher and a former member of the Wicomico County Council, was issued criminal summonses because some of his tenants violated the old ordinance.

This person thus became a convenient scapegoat for someone else's crime — if that's the proper terminology for failing to remove a trash receptacle from the curb by a certain deadline.

Using the fractured logic of substitute liability, Salisbury's landlords should be thankful they haven't been charged with murder or dope dealing when law enforcement officers couldn't locate guilty renters.

What rocket scientist decided violating a garbage ordinance should be a **criminal** offense in the first place? When there's not enough room in our prisons for rapists, murderers, etc., we should build more prisons for garbage criminals?

Thankfully, the new law of the land in Salisbury regarding garbage disposal involves neither criminal charges or vicarious liability. There are, however, civil penalties — translation: $25 fines for certain violations.

Although his timing was awful, Councilman **Timothy Sakemiller** tried to amend the new ordinance to include an "either/or" provision which could have held landlords responsible for violations if guilty tenants could not be identified.

Sakemiller's motion — offered before the new ordinance was discussed — died for lack of a second. But not before **Robin Cockey**, council president, asked **Robert Eaton**, the city attorney, if he (Cockey) could second Sakemiller's motion.

Cockey, like Eaton, is an attorney. Even a layman might reasonably expect Cockey knew the answer ("No") before he asked the question. It's also conceivable Cockey, the politician, is not above engaging in histrionics.

After the 3-1 vote, Cockey told the audience he would have voted against this kinder, gentler garbage/trash ordinance if he'd had the chance. Since the president only votes in case of ties, maybe Cockey was momentarily wishing **Robert Gladden**, top vote-getter in the spring election, had been selected president at the reorganization meeting. Nah.

It wouldn't have made a difference anyway. **Mary Pinkett**, the crucial swing vote, wisely sided with Caldwell and Gladden in rejecting the substitute liability idea. Good for her!

Mayor **W. Paul Martin** did express a legitimate concern after the vote. "How do you enforce a law with no penalties?" he asked, referring to the deadline for removing containers from curbside after pickup.

In this area, the new ordinance relies on the citizens of Salisbury to "do the right thing."

If we don't, the city council will surely revise its kinder, gentler approach.

●

JOHN BOZMAN *is a Daily Times copy editor. The opinions of the writer do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Daily Times.*

Salisbury

9/15/92

City changes garbage law

SALISBURY — The Salisbury City Council amended its laws governing garbage collection Monday so a homeowner will no longer be fined for not placing and removing a city trashcan from the curbside by the specified times.

The city still requests trashcans be placed by the road by 6 a.m. the day of collection and removed by 11 p.m. that night. But violators will be contacted and asked to comply with city law rather than fined, the new law states.

The city may still fine homeowners for violating city law on what materials can be placed in the trashcan as well as for other garbage guidelines.

Under the new law, tenants are solely responsible for garbage violations but some city residents said property owners should also be liable since they benefit economically from rentors.

Garbage fee wins approval

9/11/92

Trash collection still twice weekly

By RICK THORNTON
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY — Beginning in October a $3-per-month garbage disposal fee will be charged to all city dwellings. However, thanks to some last-minute urging by dozens of residents Monday, trash will continue to be picked up twice each week.

The disposal fee, which will be added to monthly water and sewer bills, is expected to generate much of the $300,000 needed to offset an increase in county landfill tipping fees. The fee and the revised collection schedule were both included under one ordinance but the once-per-week pickup was deleted from the law.

Although some residents complained the fee was an "inequitable tax," what most complained about Monday was the proposal to collect only once per week.

One woman was concerned about the smell the scraps from her summer crab feasts would generate. Another man offered a more graphic description.

"Have you opened a trash can and seen 200,000 or 300,000 maggots inside?" he asked.

Public Works Director Tom Plotts repeatedly said the city would "continue to provide the level of service necessary." Plotts said by collecting trash only once per week the city would "gain efficiency in its operation."

Many residents used Monday's public hearing to attack the city's decision to switch to automated trash collection. But Plotts said automation had reduced injury claims against the city and cut overall costs of the operation by 45 percent.

The decision to continue collecting the city's trash twice-per-week passed by a 3-2 margin with Council President Robin Cockey casting the deciding vote. Council members Bob Gladden and Mary B. Pinkett also voted for twice-per-week pickup while councilmen Tim Sakemiller and Bob Caldwell voted against it.

Sakemiller at one point spoke in favor of twice-per-week collection after hearing lengthy public input, but changed his mind at the time of the vote.

Sakemiller also spoke in opposition to levying garbage disposal fees. He instead favored offsetting increased landfill tipping fees under general city taxes.

"What we've got now is one big mess," Sakemiller said.

Opposes fee for trash collection

9/20/92

Editor Of The Times:

The next step up from "nit picker" is "leach picker." I don't hope to qualify for either title but I will say that the $3 per month fee for trash collection is inequitable.

John Bozman's column in Wednesday's *The Daily Times* was most enlightening. What's with the 60 hours overtime weekly for trash collection?

If I recall correctly one of the selling points for the new equipment was explained as a money saver (a crew of one vs. a crew of three).

Also I should like to hear how recycling will be handled. Just how does this "space age stuff" fit into the picture. Will it involve still more money? How much? How soon?

And then, of course, there is the matter of tax deducation for local taxes on the state and IRS forms. Shifting the $36 to a few instead of including it, as heretofore, in local taxes is in fact a bit of legerdermain that needs a clear explanation.

Of course the $3 more for half of the usual monthly service leaves a bitter taste as well as a foul smell.

This entire thing needs rethinking.

I suggest that concerned residents attend the Salisbury City Council meeting on Monday and speak up. Get some answers. This is representative government and deserves citizen imput.

Scott Barker
Salisbury